

LadyLike

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Exploring & Expressing Femininity

LadyLike Profile

Jessica Brandon



Flash Back
Workin' Cheap
Times — Minette

TVideo Review
Ranma 1/2

Photo Features
Hollywood TVs

**Hot Babes & Hot
Rods**

S&M 101

**Letters, Letters
& More Letters**

**Mirror
Mirror**



Editorial

One evening I was working at the Renaissance office (in my capacity as Executive Director of that fine organization) and was performing my duties in my male aspect. Yes ladies, I do the dude thing now and then. A Renaissance member stopped into the office, and obviously didn't recognize me. When she did figure it out she looked shocked, and said, "Oh, I thought you were a transsexual."

That made me stop and give the matter some thought. It helped to give me a little perspective on how others see me. After some cogitation I can say safely that I'm not a transsexual. No, I'm just your garden variety (or is that Gardner variety) transvestite. I wear women's clothing and interact with the rest of the world as a woman because it's fun. I'm not gender dysphoric, trapped in the wrong body, (I *could* do without all the body hair) or anything like that. Wearing women's clothes and being called "Miss" is a great kick. Why then do I get mistaken for a transsexual from time to time? Could it be attitude?

When I first wore my mother's clothes I had a great deal of fear about being discovered. That added to the thrill. It gave the act of opening Mom's cedar chest and getting out those old dresses from the 1940's seem a lot like a secret mission into enemy territory—a secret mission in disguise. It took years to get out of that top secret mind set and tell anyone about my desire to dress in women's clothes. (In fact a lot of adult crossdressers feel the same way they did when they were kids when it comes to being discovered. It's like arrested development.)

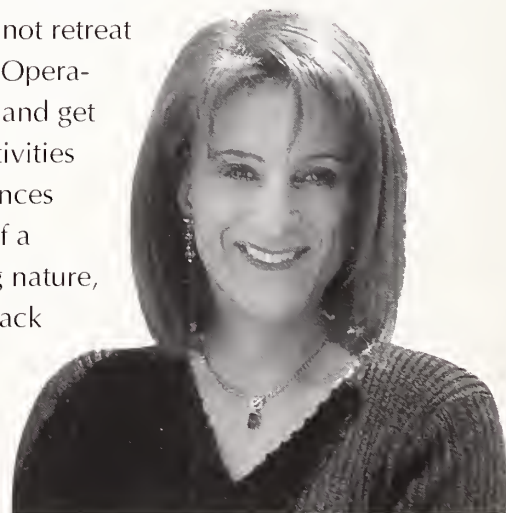
Over the intervening years—from the Mom's cedar chest to my own closet stuffed with feminine finery, from Operation Top Secret, to being on national television—I have learned a lot about the art of femininity. Oh yes, I learned makeup application, how to make a wig look like it's actually your hair and not a fur hat. I picked up style and taste, and how to know which bag goes with which outfit. But, in the process of learning all that physical, artifice stuff about being a woman I also picked up the ability to use my *feminine energy*.

It started as a desire to wear the clothes in public and not be embarrassed by having people point out the man in a dress. I didn't have much feminine energy going for me when I was sitting around the house in drag, watching television. Or when I walked around the block at three in the morning with my heart pounding so loud I was sure it would wake the neighbors. When I finally started to mingle in society *en femme* I felt that I should try to act as feminine as possible. Not in an exaggerated

manner, over emphasizing feminine attributes and hoping to distract attention from masculine factors, but in a natural, womanly way. (The glamour babes get a lot of attention, but observe the more subdued women and note the difference between glamour and femininity.) For the first few years Angela was always very shy and quiet. (Boy, those days are gone.) I felt I should be careful about how I presented myself so that my manliness didn't draw attention. (I have been told that my quietness was often taken for an aloof attitude. Translation: "Why's she such a bitch?" Lesson: if you're gonna be quiet be sure to smile a lot, and look quiet but friendly.) At some point my feminine energy, which is present in all of us but usually gets stifled by conforming to tough male roles, started to grow. Fed by the clothing and watered with makeup and perfume my feminine energy developed to the point that when Angela is out she has an aura of femininity. Call it a mental attitude if you want, but when I interact it's the feminine energy that is responsible for any passing, or being mistaken for a transsexual, that I manage.

It's this feminine energy, or attitude, that will help you to pass more than all the prosthetic devices, makeup, or even hormone treatments. If you radiate from your feminine energy you will have people relating to you as a woman, even if you aren't as beautiful as Jacqueline Bisset, and even if they know that you aren't female.

Be mindful, however, that it's difficult to manage. Like all natural phenomena it's not always under our control. Even women can get masculine from time to time, so if your *masculine energy* decides to emerge while you're strolling down a sunny, downtown street in a floral print dress it may have people making rude comments about you being a guy. (Heaven knows it's happened to me.) That's when it's important to not retreat to those days of Operation Top Secret, and get on with your activities for the day. Chances are, if they are of a femme-affirming nature, you'll soon be back to your feminine energy in no time at all. Have fun!



LadyLike

Exploring & Expressing Femininity

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Name: Jessica Brandon

Age: 39

Profession: Desktop Publishing

Residence: Southeastern Pa

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 195#

Measurements: 38-28-40, 14 Tall

Shoe Size: 13 Wide (Gunboats)

Favorite Things

Shoe Style: Black Leather
Pumps

Perfume: Gloria Vanderbilt

TV Show: The X-Files

Movie: Pulp Fiction

Music: 60s And 70s Rock N
Roll, Motown.

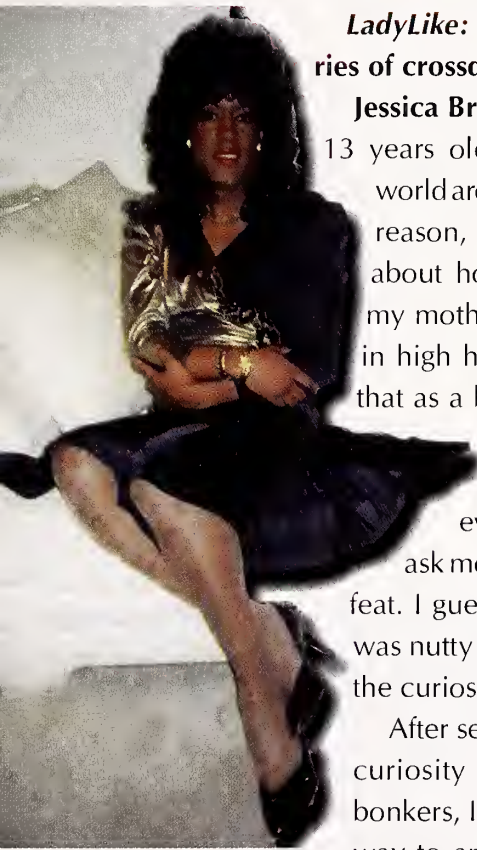
Styles: Career Woman Fashions.

Activities: Collecting Comic
Books & Barbie Dolls.

Place: Comic Book Shops,
Computer Stores, Atlantic City
Casinos.

Turn-Ons: Shopping, Black
Lingerie, Triple 7 On Dollar Slots
Turn-Offs: Drugs, Violence,
Prejudice Towards Anyone Who's
Different.

A Conversation With Jessica Brandon



LadyLike: What are your first memories of crossdressing desire?

Jessica Brandon: It began when I was 13 years old. I was curious about the world around me but, for some strange reason, I was particularly curious about how women in general, and my mother in particular, could walk in high heeled shoes. I looked upon that as a bizarre oddity. It was something that seemed to defy the laws of physics. However I couldn't bring myself to ask mother how she performed this feat. I guess I was afraid she'd think I was nutty to pose such a question. But the curiosity lingered.

After several days during which the curiosity was starting to drive me bonkers, I decided there was only one way to answer the question and that was to wear them myself. So, one day when I had the house to myself, I went to her room to conduct my experiment.

I picked the highest heels she owned, a pair of simple, black pumps with three inch heels (my favorite shoe style to this day) and slipped them on my feet. At the time, we both wore a size 10, so the fit was snug, but comfortable. Then, I tried to stand but I couldn't keep my balance and fell. That happened three more times before I managed to stay on my feet. Next came the most crucial test, walking. If anyone had seen me, they would've laughed at the way I stumbled and staggered all over the house like a drunk. After a while, I got the hang of it, and discovered it wasn't all that hard. If anything, I found it to be fun.

Suddenly, I had a brand new hobby, and at every chance I would sneak into mother's room to wear her shoes. Then, things changed, and for the worst when those awful teenage growth spurts kicked in.

LL: How did growing out of mom's shoes effect you?

JB: To say I was crushed would be an understatement. That effect might've stunted my eventual growth into a full fledged crossdresser, but I decided I wasn't going to give up

my hobby. I was hooked on wearing women's shoes. If I could no longer wear my mom's, I would buy my own. However, having neither the money (or the nerve) to go into regular shoe stores, I opted for thrift shops, but always in a different part of town as I was scared to death of being seen by someone I knew. Pretty soon, I had amassed a small collection of shoes which I enjoyed wearing. Then a year or so later, my curiosity struck again as I wondered what I would look like if I wore a dress with my shoes.

LL: A girl's first dress is always special. Tell us about it.

JB: It was a cute, pink number, with a high collar and a pleated skirt, that mom had consigned to Goodwill. I was again hooked. When I think back to that time, I looked silly as hell—the sleeves stopped halfway down my forearms and the collar was too small for me to fasten—but at the time I thought it looked so neat.

After that I raided mother's closet each and every day to get my fix of wearing her clothes. For the next two years, I wore every single stitch of clothing she owned, and she never knew a thing. I had the time of my life.

LL: Many crossdressers joined the military at one point, thinking that being a soldier or sailor might cure them of their feminine desires. You took to the ocean. What made you pick the Navy?

JB: After graduation from high school I enlisted because I'd heard so many stories about life as a sailor from a friend of my mom. Years later I learned that crossdressers would often try to overcompensate their growing feelings of femininity by engaging in macho pursuits. But at the time,





I was unaware of that and only enlisted because I thought it would be cool.

After two years of almost daily crossdressing, I was bummed out when I left for boot camp. Little did I know, but I was experiencing my first purge of a sort. I didn't throw anything away; I was merely separated from it. Those first several days I was an emotional wreck because I couldn't dress up. But as boot camp progressed, I learned to live without the crossdressing. And, while I gave up crossdressing on a regular basis, I still thought about it. Of course, when I came home from boot camp after nine weeks, I started the dressing thing all over again.

LL: *It's interesting that you could put it aside for periods of time and then go right back to it. Did you have the desire while you were at sea?*

JB: As my career in the Navy progressed, I developed a regular pattern in my life—long periods away mixed in with short trips home to dress as much as I could. I thought about dressing but I couldn't on board ship. Thus the intense dressing for short periods while on shore.

My first ship was stationed in Pearl Harbor. One weekend, when the desire to dress was overwhelming, I rented a room at the YMCA in downtown Honolulu, bought a

cheap dress, wig, and shoes from a thrift shop and stayed in that room in my femme attire for two days. Of course, I had to throw the stuff away before I returned to my ship, but the relief I got was more than worth it.

LL: *What was the longest time you went without dressing?*

JB: When my ship changed home port from Pearl Harbor to Yokosuka, Japan, I had gone almost a year without dressing up. I was pretty stressed out at first and had no means of relieving that stress. So I had to grow up and realize that I had to live without dressing up, or go batty. That experience, I feel, helped to curb what was then a near total obsession to dress up, and brought some needed stability into my life.

LL: *You've told me that you had some encounters with other CDs while you were in the Navy. How did those come about?*

JB: The first happened one day when I was assigned to

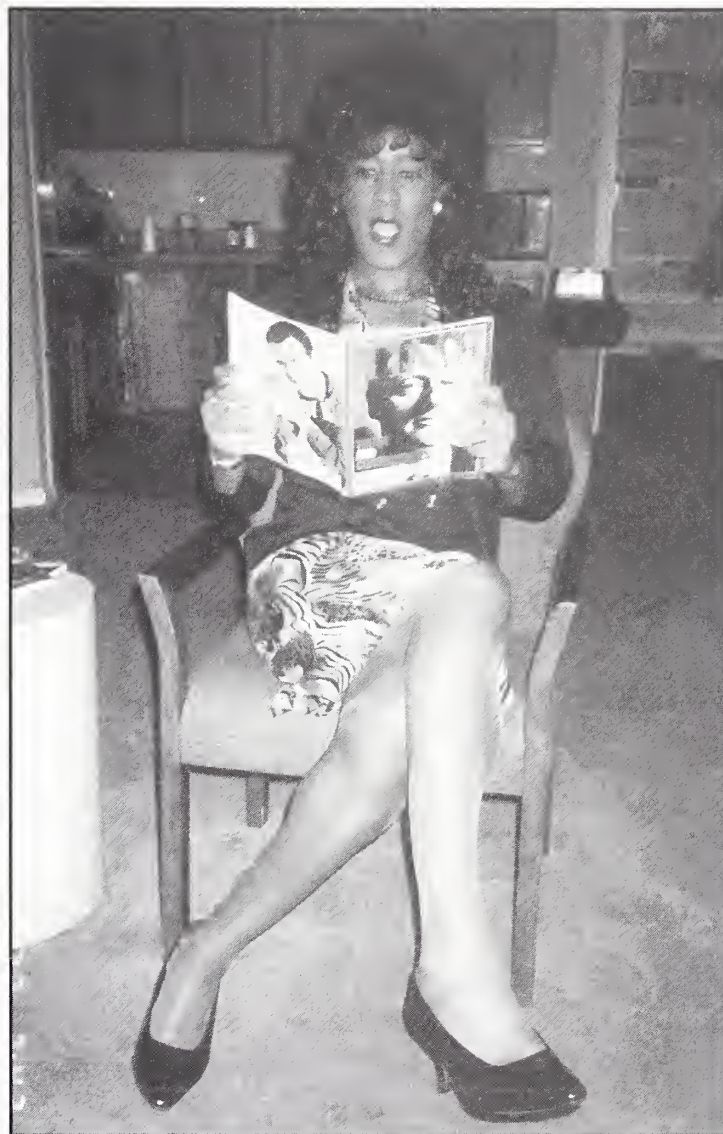


help clean my department's berthing space. My job was to go under bunks and collect stuff that wasn't either locked up or hung up. Under one crewman's bunk I found a pair of rather large pink lace panties. I added two and two and concluded the panties belonged to him. Not wanting to get the guy into trouble, I stuffed the panties into my locker and threw them away when I went ashore that afternoon. His secret was safe, though I'm sure he had to have wondered what happened to the panties, as I never told him.

Incident number two occurred some weeks later when a buddy and I went into town to have some fun. In downtown Honolulu, we saw a night club called *The Glades* with some absolutely stunning women standing out front. Intrigued, and horny, we went in. Two girls immediately latched onto us and steered us to a booth in back where we made small talk. Actually, my buddy and I did all the talking, while the girls whispered, grinned, and nodded most of the time.

My buddy, who was a real lech, decided to cop a feel, but down low. I saw his eyes bulge impossibly wide like Marty Feldman, and his mouth fell open, while the girl just grinned. I asked him what was wrong, and in a croak, he said: "This chick's got a dick!" Then, right on cue, the girl next to me said in a baritone that would put James Earl Jones to shame, "New in town, sailor?"

Hearing that, we tore out of that place and once outside, we all but made blood vows never to tell anyone what happened in there. The shame and humiliation would've



been too much to bear. The next day I realized that had I met my very first crossdresser and it affirmed the fact that I wasn't alone in my passion for women's clothing. That helped me to feel good about myself.

LL: *Life on the high seas must have taken you to other ports where girls like us can be found.*

JB: My ship traveled to places like Singapore and Hong Kong where the red light districts were crawling with drag queens virtually indistinguishable from the real thing. In fact, in Singapore, one crewman, drunk to the gills, had sex with a DQ, then went berserk when he discovered the truth. I was on Shore Patrol that night and, along with three other patrolmen, had to haul him away before he killed the poor thing. Still, it was an incredible experience.

LL: *You have had the experience of being caught by your mother. Tell us about that, and how you handled it.*

JB: It happened in 1985. It was a traumatic experience. I was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, and on free weekends

I would travel home, where I was still living with my mom. Since I spent 90 percent of my time onboard ship there was no sense in having a place of my own. But this incident changed that thinking in a huge way. In late October, ironically with Halloween, the crossdressers national holiday, right around the corner, I arrived home and found my mom in the dining room, looking terribly distraught.

My first thought was a relative or neighbor had passed away, but when I asked her what was wrong, she said she had been going through my room and found the duffel bag where I kept my stash of lingerie. With my secret suddenly out in the open, I felt cornered and terrified, not knowing what to do. When she asked what I was doing with a bag of women's underwear, I was tongue tied not knowing what to say. I agonized over telling her the truth. With no idea how she'd react if I told her the truth, I opted for a lie and told her the lingerie was an aid in masturbation.

After a terribly long silence, Mother nodded and, much to my surprise, accepted my explanation. Then she flat out shocked me by suggesting I regularly wash my things after they've been soiled. That was it. No horror, outrage, no disgust, nothing, and I felt immensely relieved because my



secret was safe. But, that relief didn't last long as guilt set in over lying to Mother. The next day, I threw away every stitch of women's wear I owned, vowing never to crossdress ever again. That vow only lasted until I moved into my own place where I was free to build up a new wardrobe.

LL: When did you first try to contact others like yourself?

JB: In March of 1991, after being in the closet for 20 years, I read an issue of *Penthouse Forum* that had a feature on crossdressing. It was there that I found the address for IFGE, and, on a whim, wrote to them looking for information on crossdressing groups in the Philadelphia area. A few weeks later, I got a reply, and they told me about Renaissance and Creative Design Services. When I was stationed in Philadelphia a few months later, I wrote to CDS and ordered a lot of neat stuff, like back issues of *LadyLike* and both editions of JoAnn Robert's *Art & Illusion*.

LL: When did you first meet other crossdressers?

JB: I received notice about a femininity workshop being held in King of Prussia in 1991. I was working to perfect my feminine image and I saw this as a golden opportunity to go out into the big, bad public. I got a personal reply from JoAnn Roberts who told me all about the workshop, and gave me some practical advice. At the time, I didn't know JoAnn Roberts from JoAnn Worley (the *Laugh-In* regular).

On the day of the event, I got a room at a nearby motel.



After I dressed and made sure I was ready, I opened the door to my room and found I couldn't step outside, I was so petrified from fright. It was like there was an invisible barrier preventing me from leaving the room! Even though it was dead quiet (it was early on a Saturday morning), the slightest sound would make me shut the door every time I tried to step outside. As God is my witness, this actually happened. This went on for a good ten minutes before I finally screwed up my courage and left the room.

LL: What was it like when you arrived at the workshop?

JB: When I arrived, I met the people who were teaching the workshop, Alison Laing, Paula Jordan Sinclair, and JoAnn Roberts, who would become a role model for me. I also got to meet other crossdressers and discovered they were completely normal people like myself. I had the time of my life. We students even had a real life test as we went with our teachers to a restaurant in Center City Philadelphia that night. It was all fabulous! The very next month, I joined Renaissance.

LL: How did you feel at your first meeting?

JB: My first Renaissance meeting was very eventful. It was one thing to have been in a small gathering of CDs during that workshop; it was quite another to be positively surrounded by them at a full blown meeting. To say I was a little nervous would've been a tremendous understatement. I remember being the prototypical wallflower, standing against a wall, tight lipped and ramrod stiff, barely saying anything to anybody. Now they can't shut me up!

LL: Eventually, you became the Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter Leader for a couple of years. What made you want to get involved?

JB: For three years, I was content just to be a member and make all kinds of friends, but in late 1994, I decided I wanted to do more with the group. This led to my first office position in Renaissance as Outreach Director for the Greater Philadelphia chapter in 1995. My job entailed being a greeter at the door, helping anyone who needed questions answered, and, best of all, giving the orientation lecture to newcomers at meetings. It was during this time that I took over

publishing the chapter newsletter, something else I found entertaining to do.

As time passed, my responsibilities with Renaissance grew. In 1995, I took over the shopping column in the *Renaissance News & Views*, one of the most recognized publications in the community, and I've had so much fun doing it. In 1996, I was elected Chapter Leader for Greater Philadelphia. This was a tremendous honor, being put in charge of Renaissance's first and largest chapter. While I was nervous about the job at first, it turned out to be (at least for me) a great amount of fun. I made a point of being a visible presence at meetings. I believe leaders should be in the forefront, not in the background. Besides, I loved being seen and talking to people about things transgendered.

LL: What do you look forward to for Jessica Brandon?

JB: Three things: (1) I want to become a more recognized face in the transgendered community, since there are so few crossdressers of color, and the word *has* to get out that we come in more than one shade of the rainbow; (2) In time, when I think I'm ready for it, I want to serve as the National Chair of Renaissance. That I think would be the pinnacle of my achievements; and (3) I'd love to do my shopping lecture for one of the large tg-conventions. That would be a blast!

I've gone from a wallflower to a well-known columnist, author, local leader, lecturer, and layout person for one of the community's top publications. And, believe it or not, I hope to be able to do even more. I want to be able to give something back to the community that reached its hand out to me, and have fun doing it, too!

LL





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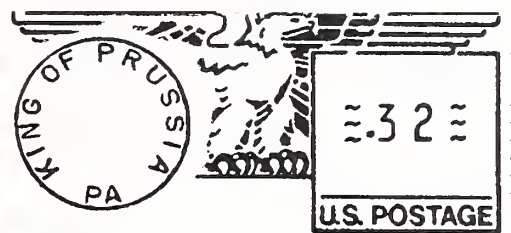
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Letters



No Fear Of Flying

The note enclosed with my recent edition of *LadyLike* (#33) indicates that my subscription has expired; to remedy this I am enclosing a check for \$32.00 for another quad-magazine subscription.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU—I'm very flattered that you published one of my most amateur images, along with my address, in issue #31. I have already received several very complimentary responses. There was just one problem, my last name was listed as Maguire (an N instead of an M).

And now for another brief reflection: This comes under the heading, "you know you're transgendered when ..."

I have been doing a lot of business travel lately. (Unfortunately, the pace is either too fast, or the colleagues too numerous to do any dressing.) On a not very crowded plane flight, there were only three people in our row of five seats. I was seated in a window seat, a woman was on the aisle, the seat between us was empty, and there was a man seated directly across the aisle from us. As we pulled away from the gate the woman leaned back in the seat and closed her eyes. She was not wearing a tight blouse, but neither was it loose—yes, it was just right, and when she leaned back her breasts stuck out nicely. Fortunately, her bra had just the right amount of support, and as we rolled along the fairly rough taxiways and runway her breasts jiggled beautifully. Both myself and the guy across the aisle were watching intently. (He was drooling, I hope I wasn't.) I can't say what he was thinking (however, since us TGs are a minority, it probably was not what I was thinking), but I was thinking how nice it would be to have a set like that (real or virtual, it didn't matter, I just wanted that beautiful jiggle). This vision evoked a most happy dream when I napped on that flight.

Sincerely,

M. Maguire

P.S. I'm still working on my detailed crossdressing history.

Has Lots Of Extra Energy

Dear JoAnn Roberts,

Question coming, but first *LadyLike* is the absolute best! Now, has anyone you know addressed the "energy" we CDs and transgendered seem to develop? I've been told by people on both sides of the spectrum that I have the energy of two people.

While I do funnel an enormous amount of energy from my male to female side, it seems the energy and drive are greatest when I'm working toward some thing

feminine, let's say, a new outfit or maybe my walk or talk! Could it be I am actually unlocking additional energy mentally? An extra 4-6 hours a day can be just magic if I'm concentrating on my better side—the female one! Any ideas?

Thanks,

Vicki Lynn Word

PO Box 303,

Sawk Rapids, MN 56379

Dear Vicki,

It's Angela answering your question... JoAnn is just warm out. Seriously, I personally seem to be able to summon energy from somewhere to do same fun, feminine activity; energy that I just can't find for things like washing the car or doing the laundry. (Most of the time.) I believe it's because crossdressing is exciting to crossdressers. You have to do day-to-day things because they must be done, but you do your femme side stuff purely for fun. One way to lose some of that energy is to spend about a week doing all your life's activities as your femme self. (Grocery shopping, laundry, visit to the hardware store, etc.) It takes a bit of the "special" energy out after a while when you have to shave and get made up every morning. Not to say that it isn't still fun, it's just a different kind of fun. In the meantime, enjoy that energy.

Must Be A Tropical Queen

Hi girls! Mahalo ("thanks" in Hawaiian) for putting my picture in your last issue. I have a new pen pal, thanks to you, Ms. Fran Margan. Hi girlfriend!



I've been dressing more and more lately, feeling

much more comfortable as a woman than a man. I'm getting my nails done in an hour or [a salon] in Kannapali.

Most everyone where I live sees me dressed in both genders. Although there are a few who feel I'm weird and last it, most everyone treats me like a lady, which is nice. More and more I've been leaning towards hormones. It's a big step, but I think I'm ready.

I have also left the Casmatrix female impersonation group and joined the Lipstick Girls. Our first performance was great, and we're hoping to take our act island wide, even to Honolulu.

Gotta go. Enclosed are some new photos and I hope you like them.

Much alaha,
Breeze Bergan
Hawaii

Dear Breeze,

We see letters like this fairly often, in which the writer talks about taking hormones as a "next step." There isn't any particular path that you have to follow. While taking hormones or living full time may be the right thing for you—it may not. You should examine your motivations carefully, perhaps with the assistance of a counselor qualified in gender issues. Many times the excitement of expressing the femininity we have denied for so long causes us to find great satisfaction in the femme role. (That feminine-energy-thing, again.) It's important that you discover if that's the case, or if you are truly a feminine spirit. Many of us are both masculine and feminine. The combinations are endless. Good luck with your journey, and with the Lipstick Girls. Why stop with the island? Bring the girls to the mainland for a show. Alaha.

Took Advice To Smile

I took your advice and these pictures I'm sending are the result. As it turns out, you were right, smiling brings out a prettier girl than the one in the pictures I have sent in the past. Of course they're still Polaroids so maybe you can't use them in *LadyLike*, but if you ever possibly can use them it would mean more to me than if I won the state lottery. I mean it, too!

Otherwise, it's still a long two weeks until July, when the next issue comes out, but I'll just be as patient as I can. It's a long three months, too. If it cost a lot more, I would still subscribe. I only wish it could be a monthly.

I'm not giving up. Sooner or later I'll send you

continued on page 13

LadyLike

The most informative, entertaining, and sophisticated publication to come along in years dealing exclusively with the sincere crossdresser.



LadyLike is the publication that treats the subjects of transvestism and crossdressing as they should be treated, with respect and sophistication. Chock full of great features and loads of photos, you won't want to miss a single issue. Every issue contains important and useful information to help you realize the "ladylike" qualities within yourself.

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Single issues: U.S. — \$11; Canada/Mexico — \$13; Overseas — \$15

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After



Before



After



Letters...



something you can use. Until then there's plenty in the pages of *LadyLike* to help me pass the time. Later.

Yours truly,
Kelly Tyler

Understanding and Tolerance

Although not usually a letter writer, I could not ignore



Cindy Loveless' comment (Letters #32) regarding cheesecake and not having what it takes.

Every girl has "what it takes," whether looking like a truck driver or debutante. They have their fantasy, and a chance to share it with others. This fifty six year old girl enjoys being a woman, and at times, getting into sexy lingerie because it makes me feel good. I am sure there are a lot of women out there who would concur. We must learn to do what it takes to make us happy, and be tolerant of others.

I compliment you and the magazine for not only

publishing the debutantes, but the truck drivers. Our life is hard enough. Every little smile helps. Thanks.

Yours truly,
Rachael

How To Be A Texas Deb

Thank you for the compliments on my photo in the letter section of LL#34, but the credit for the makeup and photo should go to Jan Davis of Transformations in Austin. If you print this plug maybe he'll buy an ad. And since you know how to sweet talk a girl here are a few of the rules for being a Texas Deb:

- 1 Never go out of doors in any month with an "r" in it. Bad for the complexion.
- 2 If you can't do it in heels, it's not worth doing.
- 3 Never attend a professional football game. Obviously, the Cowboys are no longer in this category, so they're Okay.
- 4 Practice safe sex—always wear gloves, when giving hand jobs, to protect the manicure.
- 5 Never pay in cash. If the bellhop can't take a credit card, that's his problem.
- 6 If you don't need at least 2 suitcases a place isn't worth traveling to.
- 7 Never attend a college without a football coach.
- 8 Never attend any college that pays a physics professor more than the football coach.
- 9 Always remember, a girl's best friend is her divorce attorney. Keep one on retainer at all times.
- 10 If you're a blonde, dye it brunette. If you're brunette, dye it blonde. Redheads can go either way, as long as the roots don't match the rest.
- 11 Make everything look effortless. If you find anything actually takes any effort, pay someone else to do it.
- 12 Never shop in a mall. Gallerias or nothing.
- 13 Never shop Neiman Marcus... too provincial.
- 14 If you have to listen to Country & Western, go to lesbian bars. Your friends are unlikely to tell anyone they saw you there.
- 15 If anyone sees you in a lesbian bar, tell them you're checking out fashion trends.
- 16 Study elementary education in college. After all, you did make it through the sixth grade. So you should know the material.
- 17 No sex before marriage #1, except b.j.s and hand jobs by Presidential decree.
- 18 Learn at least 5 words of French and use them whenever you feel like. None of your friends will ever know what you're saying.
- 19 Learn at least five words of Yiddish, but be careful using them. Confusing lox, pate, faggalla, schnarren and schleppe when you're shopping on Orchard Street could cause embarrassment.
- 20 Always give to charity, like The Linda Tripp Hair

Disaster Relief Fund.

- 21 Always reach out to those that aren't like you, like New York Debs.
- 22 Never drink and drive. You might spill it on your outfit. Drink before you drive.
- 23 Have your car mechanic scratch up the bottom of our Land Rover so it looks like you actually took it off-road.
- 24 Never marry anyone within 15 years of your own age. Marry a 45 year old when you're 20, and a 20 year old when you're 40.
- 25 Never marry a surgeon. Their first wife has already cleaned them out.
- 26 Never marry an orthodontist. Their commodities brokers have really cleaned them out.

Since a true Texas Deb never thinks about anything she does, writing down the rules didn't inhibit my letter writing at all. Just put pen to paper, and voila. It's actually a very Zen sort of thing.



Now if you want to stop my letter writing, maybe you can give me a regular column, like being foreign correspondent from T-Land. I can ponder such deep questions as why a major SRS clinic is in Galveston. (It's mutually inconvenient to LA & NY? The post-ap girls want practice wearing a bikini on the beach?) I could make a pilgrimage to the Phillips famous Transvestite Castle.

Best wishes,
Cindy Loveless

If It Doesn't Work Out...

What a thrill! Take my pulse—quickly! I just opened issue 34 and saw my picture on page 31. I've been reading your publications for about a year. I especially enjoy the Profiles. One day I would love a Profile of Brenda. It would also satisfy Mandy's request. I'm 5' 10 1/2" and well over 140. (By like 80 plus pounds.) I'm size 18-20, size 12 shoe, 43 years old, college educated as a nurse, owner of a small business, widowed, bi-curious, and lonesome.

I've been out in other cities with a GG friend who has known Brenda for about 3 years. Loved it!

continued on page 15

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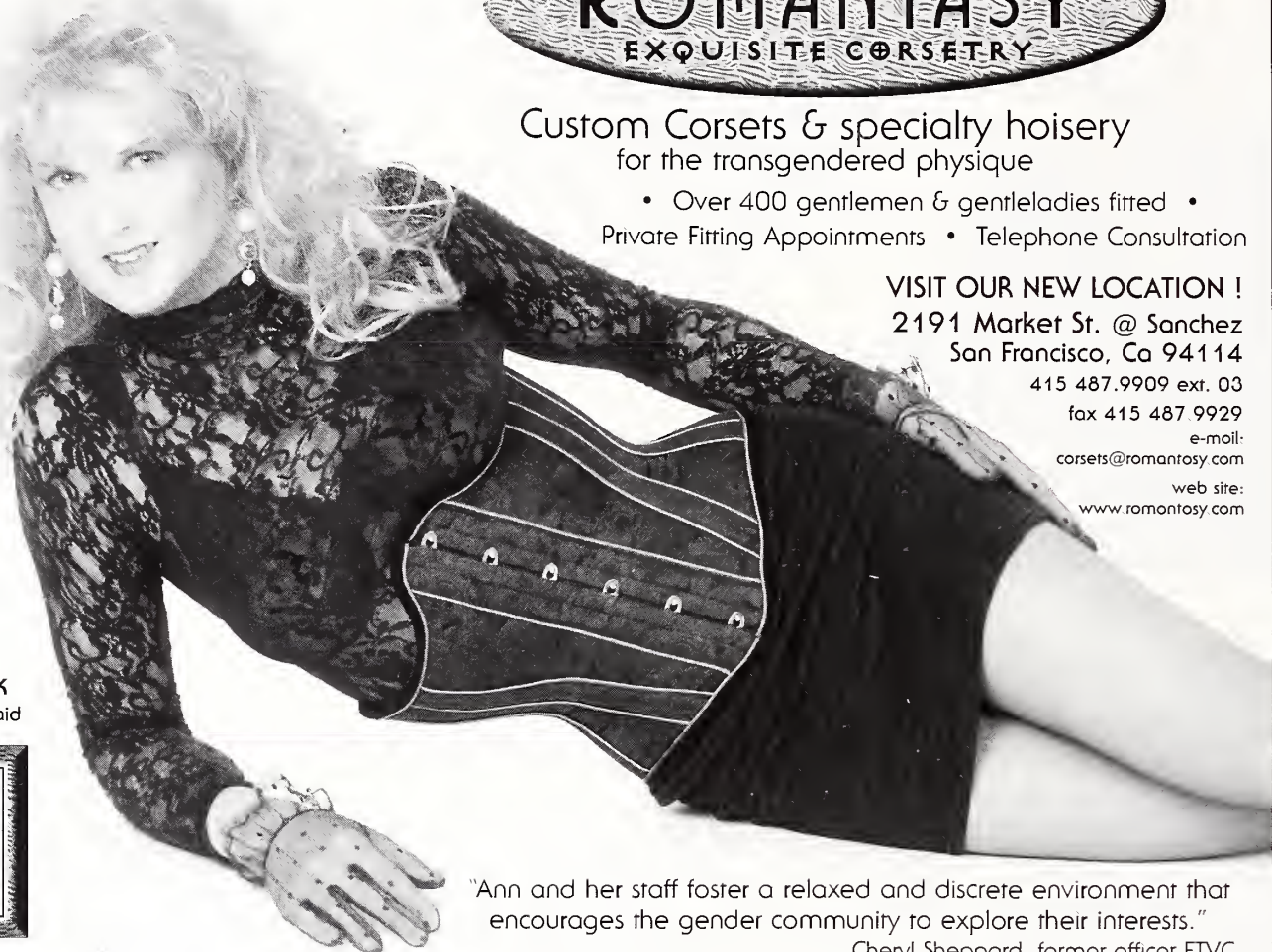
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Letters...



If this business venture doesn't work out I may move to somewhere I can use my nursing background to serve the TG community. Perhaps of a SRS center or in counseling.

Please let me know what you think of my look. What can I do to improve it?

Please print my address. I'll answer all who are kind enough to write. Keep up the great work!

Love, Brendo Lawrence
Box 770417
Orlando, FL 32837

Brenda,

Ya look great, dall. Your best quality is your great big pretty smile. You look best with your hair down and a big smile. The glass of wine adds a festive touch.

Effusive Praise

I hope you like and can use the enclosed photos in our upcoming issue of *LadyLike*. I'll just be echoing the many kudos already bestowed at your gracious throne by saying thank you for rescuing this closet slut and showing her how to become a lady, albeit with lusty undertones.

It would be a feather in my bonnet to be included in your simple, clean, yet well designed and laid out magazine. Do you stow your kudos in a coffer? You seem so self-effacing, a quality in very short supply and one I've tried to emulate with mixed success. You wear it well my dear.

My biggest concern these days, aside from what product keeps the nose shine to a minimum and what will cover small red scar tissue on my legs on fair skin, is on issue Angelo mentioned, about whether they will let us dress at the home?

Thank you for being at the right place and the right time for me.

Your humble admirer,
Carlotta

Carlotta,

Thanks for your kind words. Add the feathers to your



baa, 'cause here ya are.

I guess it depends on what home you go to as to whether they will let you dress. I suspect that if you are paying a large monthly fee... you can dress any way you like. Maybe it's time some folks in the TG community invested money in a managed care facility for TG seniors.

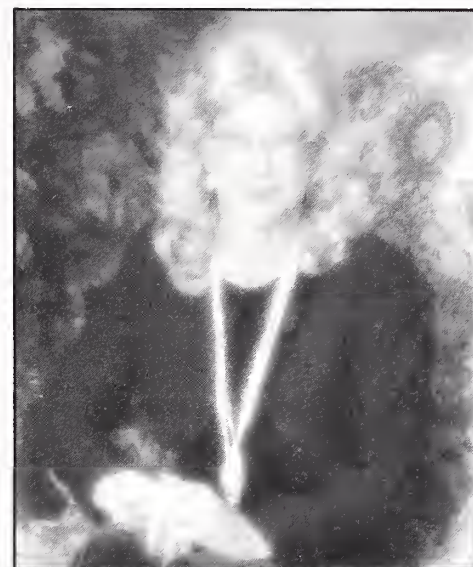
Cover your leg scars with Dermablend leg makeup. It's available in better department stores and from The Wildside boutique in Taranta. It sets with powder and doesn't rub off on your delicacies.

Not Exactly Invisible

Hi! Wow your editorial in LL#34 was awesome! You touched on several of the critical issues that us "girls" deal with day to day.

I attend a gender group meeting in Bellingham, Wash., a 160 mile round trip. I am not one of these young, beautiful, possible "ladies." but do enjoy dressing as sexy as possible. Being a 59 year old, six foot three (in heels), blonde, driving a red Corvette, I'm not exactly "invisible" and often notice people looking and then having conversations about what they are looking at. I often wish I could hear their conversations. And if they stare, I make eye contact, smile and say "Hi!" Most often this ends the staring! And truck drivers often try to see what they can see, which I can have real fun with.

I also had been asked a number of times, "are you



going full time?" The answer is no. Even if I was wealthy and spent the thousands of dollars on various surgeries, I can never be a "woman." I find the blending of Andy and Andreo to be a wonderful and rewarding experience. Yes, externally I am two very different persons, but inside I am a real, living and growing person. I find that Andreo has made Andy a much better person. Discovering myself the past two years has been the most exciting and fulfilling personal growth of my life. Has this all been easy? No! Coming out, divorce, etc., is not easy, but awesomely rewarding personally!

Sometimes I "put the polish on" and "take it off" several times a week but it is worth the effort. Pretty Zen, huh?

Yes I am going to enjoy being a girl... and a guy. And thank you for your help along the path with your beautiful *LadyLike* publication.

With Love,

Andreo Anne Dehn
4525 - 164th SW #K101
Lynnwood WA 98037-8630

Andrea,

Thanks for your letter. I'm glad we're serving your needs and being helpful. Very interesting stationery you have there. The young lady is certainly well endowed, but for future letters maybe a sheet of plain paper would be a better idea. It would help to keep things calmer around the office. Unlike the President, if we get too distracted by sex, we just can't get any work done.

Brenda Lawrence Two

I just wanted to drop you two gobs of love and thank you for all you are doing to help the transgendered in our world. I recently received your video *All Dressed Up and Na Place To Go* and really enjoyed it. I recommend it to all of your readers out there in genderland. In issue #34 you ran one of my pictures and since then I've been getting

continued on page 17

Lady Kayla



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Mz. Barbara Satin

Letters...



about 6 letters a week from CDs in the Midwest. I've very much enjoyed the comments from the writers and quickly responded back to them.

Since last June I'm no longer a brunette and have gone blonde (mostly at the insistence of my wife) and even she was taken aback at the results. I've enclosed a few pictures of how I now look when crossdressed—not bad for a 56-year old, wouldn't you say? That's right—56, and a grandfather (grandmother?) to boot! Maybe you'd consider running the pictures with this letter.

I have to say, however, those pictures of you two made over as Cher and Liza were, in my opinion, rather brutal. They really detracted from your otherwise good feminine looks. Still, I imagine it had to be fun to go through the experience. I often wonder what could be done with me.

I've been getting *LadyLike* for some time now, though only very recently as a subscriber. I must congratulate you guys on making it a better magazine with each issue, and can't wait to see what you'll bring up next. And

to those readers out there who think they could never pass in public as a woman—just 3 years ago I was a closeted, overweight, pot-bellied old fart of a CD. I told myself enough was enough and went on a diet. Now at 170 lbs and 5'9" tall, you can see the results. Granted there's a lot of Goodyear in those curves you see, but to be able to walk out in the world as the woman of my dreams and fantasies was worth every chocolate donut I said no to. I say "GO FOR IT GIRLS!" This is America and we can do anything we set our minds to do. I did!

Brenda Lawrence
P.O. Box 423
Huntley, IL 60142

Brendo,

You went blonde and I just went back to red. Ah, we're so fickle. Blonde does agree with you. Sorry you thought Jo and I were brutalized in the makeover. I thought we looked kind of hot, but hey, it's a free country and you can think what you want. (Insert sound of Brendo's pictures going through the shredder. Noh, just kidding.) Going through the makeover was more brutal than the result. Oh, I can't tell you how tough it can be to hold still while a man goes over your face with different brushes and powder puffs. The trials of the super models are nothing to be sneezed at. If you get the chance to have a professional make up artist "do" you, in your own words, GO FOR IT. Don't forget to have photos taken so we can share the results with our readers.

Treasures Time As A Woman

Enclosed is my renewal for issues #35-38. I have been an admiring subscriber for many years. I have you and your excellent magazine to thank for my "coming out" several years ago. You (JoAnn) and your publication have had my admiration and respect all these years.



I now enjoy and treasure all my time as a woman and lady at conventions, local meetings, outings and at clubs which are accepting of "special" ladies.

The companionship of other girls from the community and others who enjoy our company is, of course, the most satisfying and valued part of being a girl.

As I am now 55 years young and semi-retired, I have learned to dearly love my time as a woman and all the delightful experiences with others over the recent years.

Enclosed are several pictures which perhaps you would find acceptable to publish in future issues. I would love to hear from others so please print my address.

Thank you for your wonderful magazine and the information and respect it brings to our community.

We all love you,
Barbara Ann Roberts
PO Box 5608
Glendale Hts, IL 60139

JoAnn Replies: Thank you so very much for the praise but I am certain there are some people who don't love me, although that number is probably very small. (Who? Me have a big ego?!)



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Hollywood TVs

The Making of Two Calendars: Hollywood TV's & Hollywood TV's in Bondage

by Gina Lance

I've always loved vintage pinup calendar artwork, i.e., the paintings and sketches of beautiful women adorning calendars from the turn of the century up to the 50's. The models, classic in beauty, were caught in the midst of having fun or at a favorite activity, and were always seen as objects of beauty. They were also near nude or semi-nude but always in good taste. The colors behind the vignette solid and vibrant. Rolf Armstrong is my favorite artist even though he is not as well known as Vargas or Petty. There were literally dozens of people at work cranking out beautiful scenes for Brown and Bigelow Calendars and other smaller companies.

I've always dreamed of having my own calendar company and publishing a modern day version of these classics. Early in 1998 the idea came to me; why not use crossdressers, like myself, for the models, and try to recreate one of those calendars from the past, but with a twist into the present! I ran my idea past two people I respect; Make up artist Jim Bridges and Jo Ann Roberts of Ladylike. Both agreed it was a great idea. With their support I moved forward.

I had just done a photo shoot for Susan Lakin, a California based photographer known for her work with *Playgirl* magazine, Adidas and Bum Equipment. I ran the idea past her and she loved it. Then another thought crossed my mind. If we

could shoot one calendar, why not shoot another simultaneously? Have two versions of the same product. One a standard pin up calendar. The other with a bondage theme, along the lines of Bettie Page, Irving Klaw and John Willie so as to be sexy and fun, yet titillating

I immediately telephoned my friend, Mistress Stephanie Locke. Stephanie has been a member of the greater leather community for eighteen years and is a true fetishist. If you ever get a chance to meet her or speak to her in person, you'll realize in moments that she truly adores TV's, and can be found at many of our social functions. Upon telling her of my idea, she wanted to be a part of it and assured me that she could pull off a bondage version of each established shot in a minimal amount of time. I told Stephanie that I wanted her on the cover with a TV, and that this calendar would be her vision as well as mine.

Susan Lakin suggested we shoot at her friend, Michael Stern's studio in Burbank. Having been in the antique business for several years, I could draw props from all the stores I frequented. Next to sign on the project was Bill Stetz as Art Director. I had worked with Bill on the Jim Bridges Catalogue and knew him well. Susan spoke to her friend, photographer Kathy Longinaker and asked her to assist her on the shoot. And, of course, Jim Bridges was a part of this undertaking.

With the crew set, I already knew who the core of my models would be. Katie Talanay, an artist in her own right, is one of the most beautiful TV's I've seen. Meghan

Chavalier, adult video star, has a great sense of humor to go with her beauty. Renee Russell, Queen Mary Show Lounge star performer, who was just crowned Miss Gay L.A. agreed to participate with her sultry Central American looks. I also signed on Laurie Richards, another Queen Mary performer whose looks are stunning. Then with myself, my friends Marlayna Lacie, Tippy Gillette, and local Hollywood minx Kelly Angel, I was ready.

No matter how hard I worked, it always seemed that time was my biggest battle on this project. For the weeks up until the shoot, Bill Stetz and I worked 12 to 14 hour days, seven days a week in preparation. The perfect model, outfit, props and background color had to be picked for each shot as we attempted to story board a vintage calendar style. Stephanie Locke and I found 500 feet of color coordinated rope to match outfits and props. Whatever other bondage items she or I could foresee in a particular shot came from her personal dungeon.

A lot of help came from old friends; Robert at Antique Appraisals & Restoration Service, Greg at Tony Shoes in Hollywood, Carlos at Hollywood Wigs, and Tracy at "You're Soaking in it" who did all our nails and toes. And new friends like Lou of Caressable that furnished us with period full fashion black toe and heel stockings and John, Ned and Peter at Sari Printing.

Finally, after what seemed like endless preparation, June 18th, 1998 rolled around and we started the shoot. The props had been ware

continued on page 21

Calendar Girls

LadyLike



Meghan Chavalier getting ready for a New Year's photo ▲



▲ Meghan relaxes on a vintage bearskin rug while the set is decorated.



◀ Far Right-Renee Russell, Miss Gay, L.A.

◀ Near Right-Renee Russell looking elegant for Winter.



Hollywood TVs

Meghan enjoying a beach chair for a Summer shot. ▼

Jim Bridges adjusts Katie Talanya's hair. ▼



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Calendar Girls

LadyLike

housed at the studio for days, so setting up for shooting wasn't too terrible. I scheduled myself first to be photographed, because I knew I'd be patient ironing out the bugs. But with the pros in production I had gathered, everything ran like clockwork. We had all done our homework, and I believe it shows in the finished product.

We shot for four days, Thursday through Sunday. Susan Lakin shot 160 rolls, 12 shots to the roll, so we'd have plenty to choose from. She and Kathy and Bill were meticulous in their lighting and worked tirelessly. Jim was there every second to make sure everyone looked their best. And Stephanie Locke, who unbelievably was moving into a new house during the shoot, was ready in the blink of an eye to tie or gag any of the girls.

All of the models outdid themselves. Renee Russell posed for hours even though she had to perform later that night. Meghan Chavalier looked like a 60's starlet in a leopard print bathing suit. Katie Talanay was breathtaking, even while tied to a diving board. And Laurie Richards patiently fed a live rabbit carrot after carrot for the Easter shot. Then it was over as fast as it began. But we all found ourselves thinking about additional shots that we would incorporate in calendars for the year 2000.

I spent the days directly after the shoot returning props and picking the shots for the calendars with Bill Stetz. I want to also add that we shot 14 months in case of unforeseen problems. Lucky for us, there weren't any. So I had to dump one



▲ An exclusive for LadyLike. This photo of a picnic scene isn't in the final calendar.



▲ Meghan Chavalier relaxing for a Summer photo.



▲ Jim Bridges adjusts Katie Talanay's hair for another Summer photo.

of my own shots and that of a good friend, and newcomer to California, the beautiful Linda Lewis. Linda, a former *Ladylike* cover girl, just took over managing the Jim Bridges boutique and was in Los Angeles a mere two weeks before shooting began. I promised Linda she would definitely be in next years shoot.

I wouldn't be able to finish this article without a few more thanks. Much is appreciated from the inspiration and help my brother Richard has given me. He always seems to be there when I need a hand. And Carol Gendler, electrologist and laser technician was there whenever I needed her. From helping with food, to picking up proofs, to shuttling props, to being a shoulder to lean on. She was always there. I appreciate her generosity greatly.

In closing, I hope you enjoy Hollywood TV's and Hollywood TV's in Bondage!!! in 1999. We tried our best to deliver a classy, fun and stylish product. It's true to vintage form by being 12" by 12", a full two feet when open. And from all of us that worked on them, we hope you have as much fun hanging them on your wall, as we did making them!

Hollywood TV's and Hollywood TV's in Bondage!!! are available from CDS for \$20 each. Shipping is \$3.50 inside North America, \$9.50 elsewhere. Pennsylvania residents add 6.00% state tax. Calendars are shipped in a plain white envelope. Mail order to... CDS, PO BOX 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, or call 1-610-640-9449. Also order online at www.tgfmall.com/calgirl/



More photos on pages 22 & 23

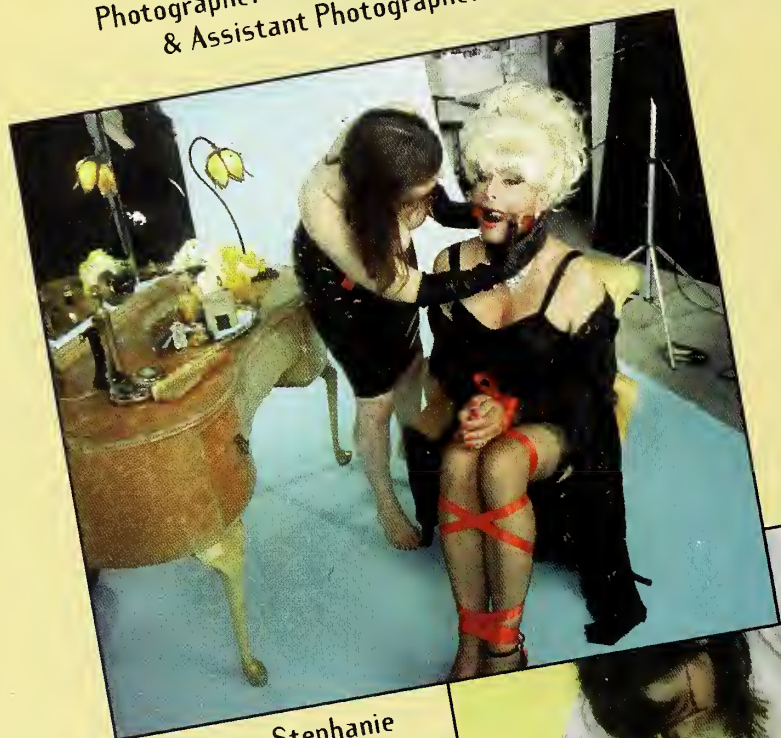
Hollywood TVs...



▲ The crew: (l. to r.) Mistress Stephanie Locke, Photographer Susan Lakin, Makeup Artist Jim Bridges, & Assistant Photographer Kathy Longjunaker



▲ Katie gets tied up for the alternate Christmas shot



▲ Mistress Stephanie prepares Gina Lance for a photo



▲ Bikini Bondage! Katie breaks up Mistress Stephanie

Gaging Meghan for another bondage shot! ▶

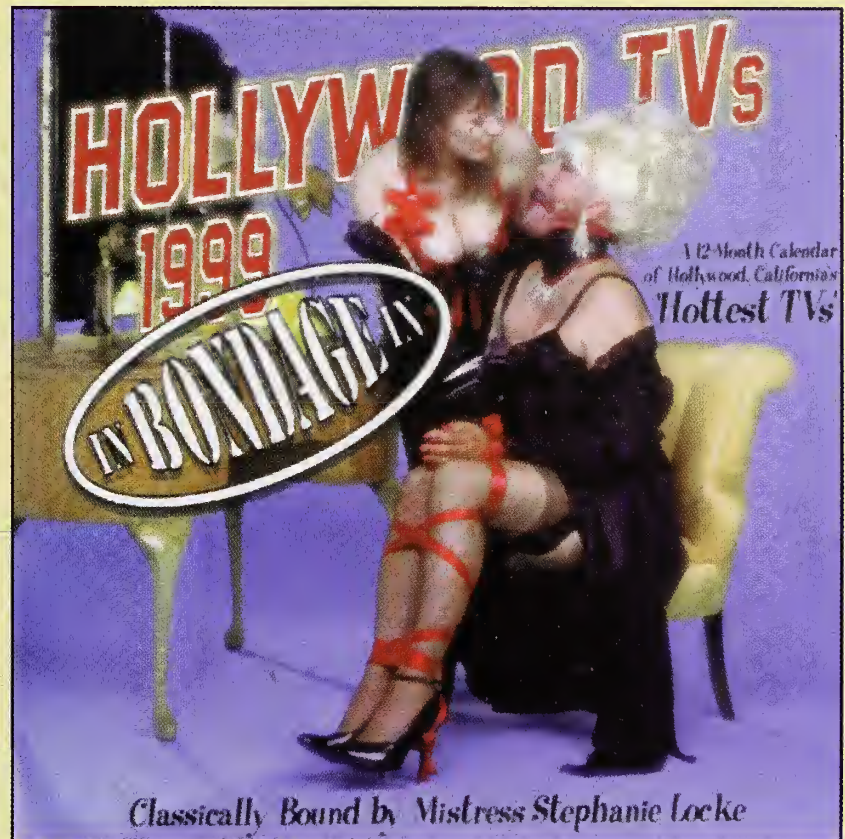


In Bondage!!!



▲ Color proof of the Hollywood TVs calendar

▼ The other picini scene that didn't make it into the final calendar.



▲ Color proof of the Hollywood TVs In Bondage calendar

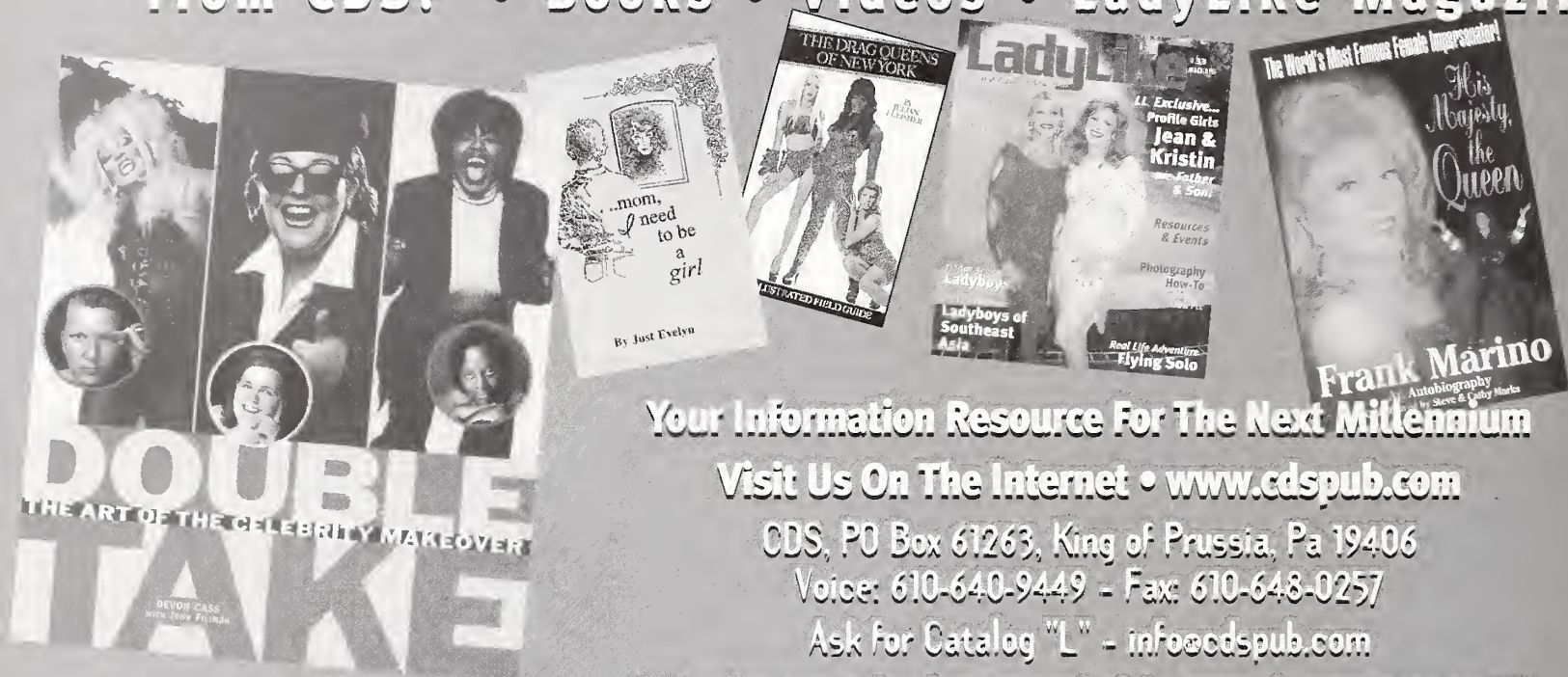


▲ Gina Lance being tied with ribbons.

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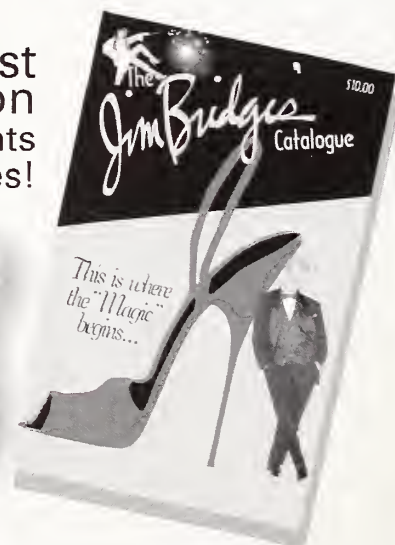
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▲ Christine Frost, 20 Patrick Rd,
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If you want to write to someone whose picture appears in the magazine, look for an address and write directly. Or, look for a forwarding number like FWD9999 with the photo. If there's an FWD number, write your letter, put it in a #9 envelope and *in pencil* write the FWD number on the front. For *each* letter to be forwarded, put your letter, the #9 envelope, correct postage in stamps and \$2 in another envelope (#10 or larger) and mail it all to us here at LadyLike Magazine, c/o PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1263.

▼ tammyl3otgforum.com



▲ Diana, N.J.



▲ Brianna Woodson, Erie, Pa.
FWD3219

Hot Babes



◀ Diane (Minn.) & her
Honda Shadow

Micheline Montreuil ▶
& her Audi
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Charlesbourg Quebec
Canada G1H 2H2



◀ Angela Gardner
(Penna.) & her
Nissan Sentra



Laurie Anne ▶
(Southwest) and her
Cadillac STS

◀ JoAnn Roberts
(Penna.) & her 1967
Corvette Coupe



▲ Kristin S & her Chrysler LeBaron
360-23 W Schick Rd Ste N°177
Bloomingdale IL 60108



*"I wish I was a
messenger and all the
news was good.*

*I wish I was the full
moon shining off a
Camaro's hood.*

*Pearl Jam,
Wishlist/Yield*



▲ Jennileigh Love (Tenn.) & her Ford pickup



▲ Lori Larkin (Wy.) and her ZR-1 Corvette



▲ Charlene Hunter (Calif.) & her 1929 DeSoto



▲ Jeri Jones (Utah) sits atop a vintage Harley Davidson



◀ JJ (Fla.) and her 1981 Porsche 911 SC

Michelle, PO Box 614, Newark, CA
▼ 94560 & her 1978 Olds Land Yacht.



▲ Telzey Adams (NorCal) & her Honda.



& Hot Rods

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Brought to you by transgendered activists, caregivers, support group founders and those experienced in transgender conventions, the 1999 **TRANS *America***, A TRANS-MILLENNIUM EVENT, in "The Queen City," Charlotte, NC, in the supportive Sheraton Airport Plaza Hotel.

Scheduled **presenters** currently include: Max Anderson; Anne Bolin, Ph.D.; Mary Boenke; Holly Boswell; Jim Bridges; Dallas Denny, M.S.W.; Divinity; Randi Ettner, Ph.D.; Linda & Vanessa Kaye; Sheila Kirk, MD; Terri O'Connell; JoAnn Roberts, Ph.D.; Sharon Stewart; Rev. Erin Swensen, Ph.D.; Dr. Delia Van Maris; and many more...

Activities will include: shopping trips; dinner at an audience-participation mystery theatre and on the Catawba Queen River Boat on beautiful Lake Norman; a pre-convention trip to America's largest home, the 250-room Biltmore Estate; a talent show with special guests; a banquet; and, many evenings of Queen City nightlife...

Additionally, TransAm will feature numerous "**Gender Vendors**." The **Registration Fee** for all three days is reasonable, starting as low as \$185 which includes five meals. The sooner you register, the lower the cost. Special rates available for couples. One and two-day rates also available.

For more information, registration form, etc., please call (704) 531-9988 (Monday-Friday, 9:00am - 6:00pm Eastern Time), or visit our web site at <http://www.q-notes.com/transamerica.htm>.

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The Fall Preview Sale from Affordable Fantasies & Illusions !!

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Style DR02

Evening Dress with front lace insert and lace sleeves. Surround yourself in luscious lace - sensuous style. Made in a smooth poly knit material. Color: Black
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Style SK01
Cute short skirt.
Passable length.
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Only \$69.95



(All handbags in pictures not included)

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Color: White
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SKIRT

Style SK02
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Our Breastforms are offered in the following sizes:

BFCLT: Reg B, Full B, Reg C, Full C, Reg D, Full D, DD

Price for the pair: Sale price \$298.15

Price for the pair with Adhesive and remover so you can wear them braless! Sale price \$ 322.25

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So many customers usually order these three items together, that we decided to combine them as a kit and offer a discount. This set includes:

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▲ Miss DiDi Mau (NorCal) "missdidimau@hotmail.com"



▲ Brenda Lawrence, Po Box 770417,
Orlando FL 32837

▼ Madeleine, Sweden



▼ Miss Diane Dale (SE Penna.) & her BMW 750iL



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▼ Ruth, Burlington, Conn. FWD1005

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▲ Ellen McKinnon, PO Box
261326, San Diego CA 92196



▲ Linda Lewis, c/o 12457
Ventura Blvd. №103, Studio City
CA 91604





S&M 101

For The Seriously Confused

by Mistress Barbara Satin

I am Mistress Barbara. I have been involved, in one way or another, in the fetish scene for over twelve years. I have noticed that S&M is most misunderstood by the transgender community, of all places.

The first thing that you need to learn is that a dominatrix is **not** a hooker with a whip and a pair of thigh-high boots. We are professionals with as much expertise in our field as any other profession. We are also not brutal, dangerous, sadists out to inflict serious bodily harm to our submissive. Any good dominant puts the physical and the emotional well being of her slave above all else.

A submissive man or woman has a deep-seated emotional need to serve another person in ways that most people would think degrading and humiliating. Trying to tell you *exactly* what S&M is, is impossible because no two people share the same definition. To keep it simple we interview each prospective slave to find out exactly where its head is at. Some slaves have a need for extremely harsh treatment; this almost always goes back to an incident in childhood. An example would be a man who, as a young boy, was caught by a female authority figure while trying on a bra and panties. Miss Authority then proceeds to verbally chastise the young crossdresser, as she gives him an old fashioned over-the-knee spanking. To Miss Authority's annoyance the youngster actually becomes aroused by this treatment—so she continues to punish him for *this* behavior, and before long the boy has had his first strangely satisfying experience in the world of S&M.

Another scenario that might introduce a young man to S&M could be something as simple as the fact that the very same girls he was attracted to at school were the cruelest to him. Do you remember the pecking order in high school? The cutest girls were often extremely nasty to the boys who were anything less than the perfect jock. However, boys being boys, they will still lust after Miss Gorgeous Nasty Bitch. The next thing you know, the boy is having masturbatory fantasies where Miss Nasty Bitch is doing something erotic with him, while she verbally abuses him.

S&M encompasses so many diverse areas of fantasy I could never cover all of them here. Some common fetishes are: latex outfits, leather garments, and medical devices. Latex is one of my personal favorites. I love the beautiful shine, the slippery feel, and even the smell and sound it makes when you walk. Another favorite is satin. I love to take a posturing macho male, and reduce him into a

whimpering sissy in a frilly, pink satin maid uniform, as I order her around like a dog.

I would like to share some personal information with you, as I think that it might just inspire some of you to get off your butts, out of your closets, and out into the world. Here's a clue girls, nothing good will ever happen to you if you hide in the bedroom! I know this from hard experience. A few short years ago I was making my first pathetic attempts at doing my hair and make up—I looked like a clown, not a woman. Instead of quitting I made it my goal to work on my look a little each week. I read fashion and glamour publications, tried new hairstyles, better make up and wardrobe, and lost weight—a lot of weight! The next thing I did was shoot some photos of myself, and to my surprise, the girl in the snapshots was a hot babe! This inspired me to start hormones and electrolysis, and convinced me that I had what it took to be a pro T.S. Dom.

Because I had the guts to go out in the world as a 6' 6" woman, my dreams are starting to come true. I no longer look at ads for T.S. Dominants who work at the big league houses of dominance in New York City and think how wonderful it would be to be one of them, because now I *am* one of them! This did not happen because I hid in my closet; get the hint.

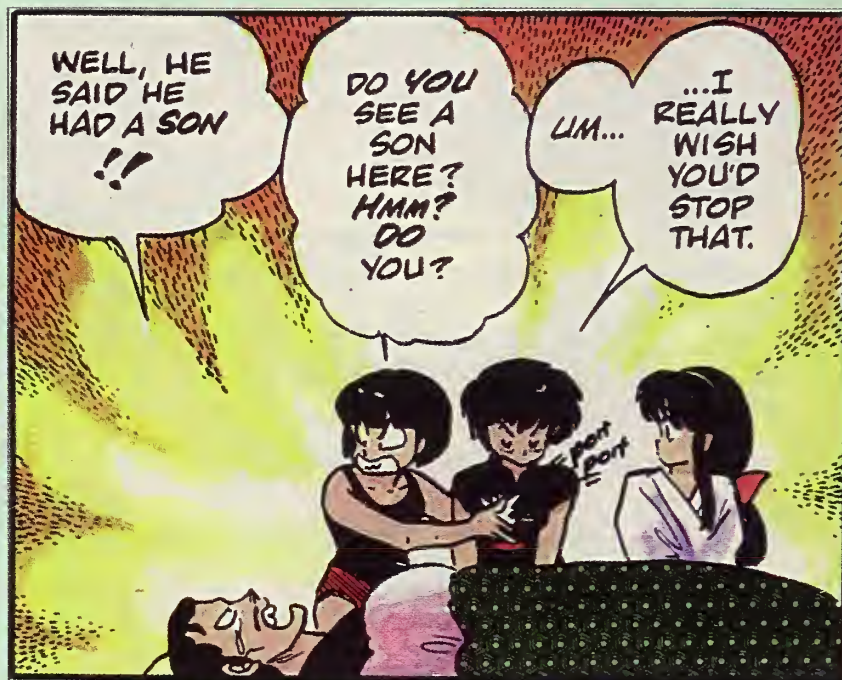
I hope this will inspire some of you to do the following things. One, get rid of that ten dollar wig you have worn for the last ten years, find some courage, and actually go to a wig salon. Tell the salesgirl it is for you, so that you can try on several different looks until you find what looks best for your complexion and the shape of your face. Next throw out all of the under-one-dollar makeup, and get your little old self to a department store, where the sales staff will help you to pick out cosmetics that will work for you. (One tip on foundation: Dermablend foundation and concealer in one.) Lastly, go out and get some clothing that fits—in other words, no more telling the people in the women's department that "it is for my wife." They want to make a sale, they don't care who it's for!

If you need help with clothing, I can help. Just call me at 717-677-8870 Monday through Friday. If I don't have what you need I will suggest other vendors that will. Hope this was helpful.

Love,
Miss Barbara



Ranma 1/2 No. 1, the beginning. ▲



▲ A panel from the first issue. That's Ranma in the middle and Akane on the left.

The Ranma comic books were lent to us courtesy of the Renaissance Transgender Association's Transgender Library Archives. LadyLike is very grateful for the loan.



TV VIDEO REVIEWS

Crossdressing at the movies with Laurie Ann



In the past few years there have been a number of films with transgender themes or actors playing a transgendered person. The Crying Game; Priscilla, Queen of the Desert; To Wong Foo..., and M. Butterfly are recent releases that have achieved same degree of acclaim.

Although there are many more transgender oriented films today, there have been a number of such films since the 1960s. Most were the efforts of independent film makers. Most were low budget and often had obvious technical and acting flaws. Almost all of them had minor and very brief theatrical exposure and quickly faded from sight.

Many of these half-forgotten films have recently been transferred to video tape and are available from video sources that specialize in cult and obscure cinema. This column will review some of the lesser known films. You may find, as I have, that most of these films are not only fun and entertaining to watch, but they also offer some interesting insights about one of our favorite subjects — crossdressing.

Ranma 1/2

Picture this scenario: A teenage boy accompanies his father on a trip to China. He accidentally falls into a legendary "accursed spring," where a beautiful young girl his age drowned several hundred years ago. As legend has it, whoever falls into this spring becomes that young girl. True to the legend, the teen boy is transformed into a well-proportioned teen girl.

Now this sounds like a crossdressing fantasy fiction story from *Reluctant Press*, or possibly one of *LadyLike's* readers reveries—a wish fulfilling dream. It is neither. The storyline is from a style of Japanese animation called Animé. Some may say that animations, whether from Japan or elsewhere, are simply cartoon material, and have no redeeming social value. That is just not true. Some Animé releases are quite sophisticated and deal with social, psychological, and political issues. Transsexuals, transvestites, and gays are not left out of storyline, but neither are they inserted as token characters. Most Animé stories present transgendered and gay characters in an affirmative way. This is quite a contrast to western film, which until recently, cast these individuals in an unsympathetic, often villainous roles.

The teenage boy turned-into-a-girl is the main character in the Japanese television series, *Ranma 1/2*. The series made its debut in 1990 and its popularity has spread

throughout the world. It was exceedingly popular in Japan, particularly with pre-teen and teen boys and girls.

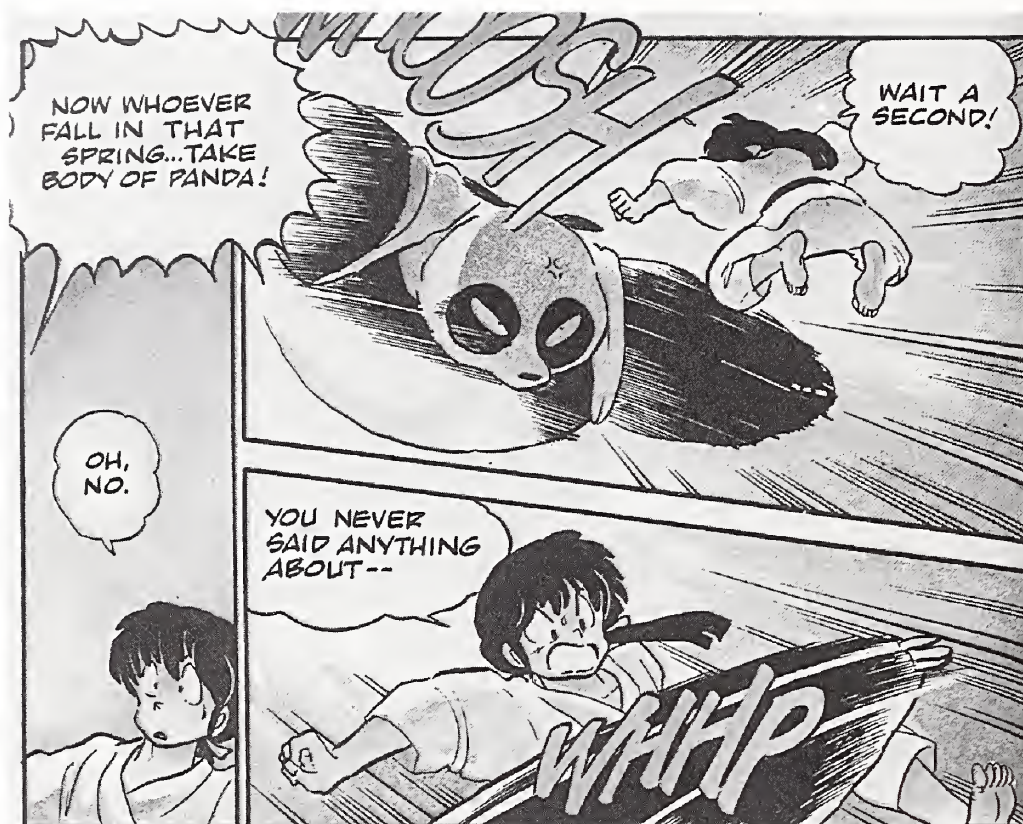
Ranma 1/2 was created by Rumiko Takahashi. Greg Barr, in his animation column in *Video Watchdog*, states, "Rumiko Takahashi can lay claim to being one of the most creative and prolific coming artists in the world today. She has the uncanny ability to create memorable characters and place them in outrageous situations... Takahashi has the ability to create humor by framing adolescent sexual foibles in a highly unusual environment."

We see these interesting characters in *Ranma 1/2*. Ranma is on a martial arts training mission with his father, who wants Ranma to be like him, a champion martial arts specialist. While practicing their craft, each falls into an enchanted spring. Anyone falling into this spring is transformed into the person, or animal, who last drowned there.

His father becomes a giant panda bear, and Ranma becomes a beautiful, bosomy, teen girl. This shape-shifting occurs whenever they are splashed with cold water. Hot water reverses the process—hence the name, *Ranma 1/2*.

Ranma's predicament, which he calls "my secret," is the basis for some unusual, interesting, and funny stories. This review will discuss some of the more fascinating episodes.

continued next page



are generated through a subtle exploration of teenage anxieties, sexual ambivalence, and identity conflicts.

Pretty Womanhood presents a clear crossgender theme. Ranma experiences an accidental blow to the head and falls into a pond. After recovering consciousness he has only vague memories of his boy self. He believes he has found peace of mind and announces, to the consternation of everyone, "I am a woman." He goes on to say that he no longer want to be the heir to the Anything Goes Martial Arts School. Adding, "I hate violence; it's crude and ugly." Instead, Ranma now desires to take up flower arranging, tea ceremony training, and cooking. In one de-

lightful scene, Ranma, as his boy self, goes shopping with Akane. Ranma acts swishy and very girlish. He gushes over the beautiful lingerie he wants to buy. Akane is mortified and splashes cold water on him so his behavior will be appropriate to his body. Giving into his desires she buys him a lovely dress and heels. Eventually Ranma returns to his former self, but I'm sure some readers would prefer the girlish Ranma.

Nihao My Concubine is billed as a full length movie. Ranma, Akane, and the rest of the characters are back... including Shampoo. She is a pretty, teen girl who is madly in love with Ranma. They all take a cruise on Kuno's new yacht and are stranded on a floating island.

One by one, Akane and the other girls are kidnapped, or bride-napped. It seems this floating island is the kingdom of a youthful ruler named Prince Toma. He is seeking the prefect bride to become his queen. There is a magic spring on the island which turns everyone into a male. To find a bride the Prince must seek outside his kingdom.

It's up to Ranma to rescue Akane and the other bride-napped girls. As his girl-self he gets dolled up in a slinky gown, push up bra, high heels, and a fabulous "do" that any drag queen would kill for. In a parody of beauty and game show contests Ranma enters the "Martial Arts Marriage Contest" where the winner will be Prince Toma's bride.

This is a wacky bit of crossgendered hijinks, with such events as Combat Survival Flower Arranging and The

Ranma's adventures begin when he visits the Tendo household. Soun Tendo is the owner of the Tendo Anything Goes Martial Arts Training Hall. He has three beautiful, teen daughters: Kasuni, age 19; Nabiki, 17; and Akane, 16—the same age as Ranma. The visit to the Tendo household is to formalize the engagement between Ranma and Akane. This is an arranged engagement, but Akane and her sisters are not traditional Japanese females. All three are independent, assertive, and skilled in the martial arts.

In Episode 3 we find Ranma and Akane in high school. Enter Kuno, upperclassman and all around basic jock. He fancies himself a swordsman and is fond of quoting Shakespeare. He states, "I am the Blue Thunder, and up and coming star of Forankan High School." Kuno, who loves Akane, is furious at Ranma's engagement to her. He challenges Ranma to a duel. In the ensuing struggle both fall into the school swimming pool. Ranma turns into his female half and Kuno is astounded when he grabs Ranma's well developed bosom. (This seems to occur frequently in this series.) Ranma reacts negatively, stating, "Are you done squeezing me yet?" and then planting a fist firmly in Kuno's face. Ranma, as his girl self, then fights Kuno. In his grandiose manner Kuno announces, "Pretty, pig-tailed girl, if you win I'll allow you to date me!" Even as his girl-self, Ranma makes fast work of Kuno.

The rest of the episode has Kuno frantically pursuing Ranma because he has fallen in love with her. Lots of laughs

are generated through a subtle exploration of teenage anxieties, sexual ambivalence, and identity conflicts.

Obstacle Course Cooking Race. Of course, Ranma wins them all and rescues Akane, but in rescuing her he has to destroy the magic spring. He thus loses his chance to be a normal boy. Reacting to his disappointment Akane says, "I like you just the way you are."

This is a very popular series, as evidence by the fact that one can buy Ranma 1/2 T-shirts, calendars, pens, mugs, posters, art prints, comic books and video games. The series has multiple interpretations. The most obvious is the challenge to rigid sex and gender stereotypes, which have been a long standing Japanese tradition. The female characters present a very positive image of femininity. They are portrayed as independent, assertive, and resourceful. It is no wonder that Ranma 1/2 is very popular with females.

The traditional male role is also questioned. Males are often portrayed as grandiose, silly, thoughtless, and rude. Ranma's shape-shifting provides young male viewers a chance to explore, and role-play being female in a non-threatening, vicarious way.

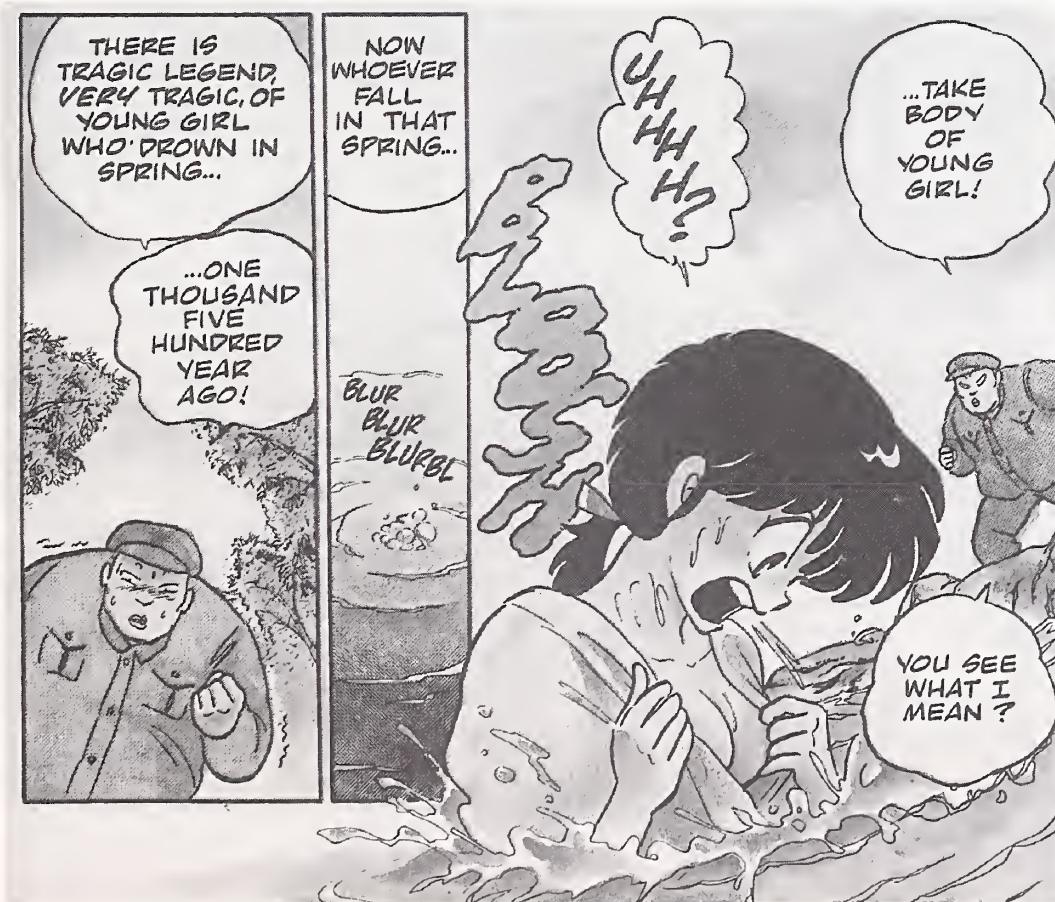
It is probably unintentional, but Takahashi's creation turns out to be a nice metaphor about being a CD. Ranma is conflicted about his dual nature. He states he would like to be an ordinary normal guy, whatever that is. Yet, he does enjoy being a girl. He refers to his girl self as his "secret." He does spend quite a lot of time as his girl-self. In Pretty

Womanhood, he admits to finding his true self being a woman. Further, his observing ego recognizes that male behavior can be pretty gross at times. I'm sure many *LadyLike* readers have had some of these thoughts.

Finally, the promos for Ranma 1/2 comment, "Yin and Yang couldn't be more fun." The great analytic psychologist Carl Jung proposed a similar idea. He said that every male psyche has a female side, the Anima. Every female has a male side, the Animus. Confirmation of this idea comes from zoologists Konrad Lorenz, Nino Tinbergen, and Desmond Morris. They show that gender shifting is a relatively common occurrence in nature.

The self-proclaimed psychologist, Hungarian Carl Hajou, himself a life long CD (a.k.a., Charlotte Bach) took Yin and Yang to it's ultimate end. In an unpublished manuscript titled, *Homo Mutans, Homo Lumines*, "she proposed that the tension between male and female—Anima and Animus—is the well spring of creativity, and the driving force of evolution. It's a fascinating idea. Maybe that's why so many of my gay and crossdressing friends are so talented and creative.

But, I suggest that you don't let too much tension build up. Splash yourself with cold water occasionally and let your girl-self emerge. Yin and Yang truly couldn't be more fun.



All Ranma 1/2 episodes are dubbed in English and are available from Viz Shop By Mail. Call for a catalog at 800-394-3042.



U.S. Support Groups

Our listings are the most up-to-date. Please keep us informed of any changes or additions. Thanks!

National US Membership Organizations

International Foundation for Gender Education. PO Box 229, Waltham, MA 02254. Publishes Transgender Tapestry (\$40/year subscription). Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. Hosts annual conference in different locations around the country. Phone: 617-899-2212. <ifge@ifge.org> <www.ifge.org>

Renaissance Education Association, Inc. 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. 610-975-9119 24 hr. answering machine, but phones are answered personally on Monday and Thursday evenings. Membership fee of \$24 includes a 24-page monthly newsletter *Renaissance News & Views*. Also publishes Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins on transgender issues for personal and professional use. Speakers available for classroom, corporate, or media discussions of transgender issues. Renaissance currently has four chapters and seven affiliates. Affiliates are noted with "(!)" in the list below. Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization. <angela@ren.org> <http://www.ren.org>

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Tri-Ess publishes the *Femme Mirror* quarterly and hosts an annual convention. Tri-Ess chapters are marked with "#" in the list below. Tri-Ess is a non-profit membership organization. <jettris@aol.com> <http://www.firstnethou.com/brenda>

Alabama

Madison County Gender Center, c/o Metropolitan Community Church, 3015 Sparkman Drive NW, Huntsville AL 35810. Phone: 205-851-6914. <keriala@aol.com>.

Alaska

Alaska T People, c/o Bobbie Wendy Tukey, P.O. Box 670349, Chugiak, 99567

Arizona

Alpha Zeta#, PO Box 1738, Tempe, 85280-1738. Phone: 602-488-0959; <sss@tri-ess.org>.

A Rose, PO Box 1738, Tempe, 85280-1738. Phone: 602-488-0959.

Evolvere, Tucson, AZ. Phone: (520) 884-0541 <SharleneA@aol.com>.

Tau Upsilon#, 8802 E Broadway Blvd. #145, Tucson, 85710. Phone: (520) 296-3472.

California

3rd Sect (FTM support), write c/o Sacto. Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456, Sacramento, 95821-1456, <stymie@netcom.com>.

Alpha Chapter#, PO Box 36091, Los Angeles, 90036.

American Transsexual Education Center: A.T.E.C., 1626 N. Wilcox Ave, #584, Hollywood CA 90028
Amanda Silvestri, Dir., Phone: (213) 389-6938.

Androgyny, PO Box 480740, Los Angeles, 90048, Phone: 213-467-8317, <Shirley@earthlink.net>.

Androgyny East, Inland Empire area. Call 909-737-5889 ask for Sara, <michelle@pe.net>.

Born Free, PO Box 52829, Riverside, CA 92517
Phone: 909-875-2687.

CD Social Group, PO Box 224, Montrose, CA 91021

CHIC, PO Box 8487, Long Beach, 90808, <CHICSoCal@aol.com>.

Diablo Valley Girls, PO Box 272885, Concord, 94527-2885. Phone: (510) 937-8432 7-9 pm.

ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, 94142-6486, <www.transgender.org/tg/etvc/etvc1.html>.

Gender Expressions, PO Box 816, Lakewood, CA 90714-0816. Phone: (310) 869-4241

Ladies Knight Out, P O Box 19608-179, Irvine CA 92713, CD couples' support, (714) 262-9105.

Neutral Corner, P O Box 19008, San Diego CA 92112. Phone: (619) 685-3696.

Omega Chi# (Orange County, CA), P O Box 1088, Yorba Linda CA 92686.

Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, 92686, <www.ren.org/ppoc.html>.

Rainbow Gender Alliance, PO Box 700730, San Jose, 95170-0730, <www.transgender.org/tg/rga/rgapage.html>.

Sacramento Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456, Sacramento, 95821, <ava4sga@aol.com>.

San Joaquin Gender Assoc., 1141 Catalina Drive Box 163, Livermore CA 94550. (510) 447-9920.

Sigma Sigma Beta#, PO Box 19933, So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96151.

Swan's Inner Sorority, P O Box 1423, San Jose CA 95109. Phone: (408) 297-1423

TGIF, meets in Santa Rosa. Call 707-544-1540 or <gai@crl.com>.

Transsexual Support Group, The Center Long Beach, 2017 East 4th Street, Long Beach, CA 90814.

TS Support Group in Fresno. MtF or FtM - Call Carrie @ 209-275-8944

Thursday Irregulars, c/o Joan Sheldon, P O Box 6541, San Jose CA 95150-6541.

Tri Chi#, P O Box 194, Tulare CA 93275. Phone: 209) 688-9246.

U.S. G.I.R.L.S. Club, P.O. Box 3182, Cerritos, CA 90703-3182 <www.tgworld.tierranet.com>

Colorado

Delta#, PO Box 16208, Denver, 80216. Phone: (303) 595-5TR1 <mystie@aol.com>.

Gender Identity Center, Inc., 1455 Ammons Street, Suite 100, Lakewood, CO 80215

<kathyw@fortnet.org>.

Phoenix Project 1740 South Buckley Road, #6-178, Aurora CO 80017.

Teenage Kids of TSs, TAKOTS, c/o Laurie Ciccotello, 1740 S. Buckley Road #6-178, Aurora CO 80017.

Connecticut

Connecticut Outreach Society, PO Box 163, Farmington, 06034. Phone (203) 657-4344 <karacder@aol.com>.

connecticutView (!), PO Box 2281, Devon, 06460. <MasonD@aol.com>, <www.ren.org/ctv.html>.

Twenty (XX) Club Inc.(TS), PO Box 387, Hartford, 06141-0387, <www.intelleng.com/xx.html>

Gender Identity Clinic of New England, GICNE, 68 Adelaide Road, Manchester CT 06040. Clinton R. Jones, Director. Phone: 203-646-8651.

Delaware

Renaissance, Delaware Chapter, PO Box 5656, Wilmington, 19808, 302-376-1990 <sadedc@aol.com> <www.ren.org>.

Florida

Animas, P O Box 420309, Miami 33242.

Eden Society, PO Box 1692, Pompano Beach, FL 33061-1692 Ph: 305-784-9316, edents@aol.com

Gamma Chi Beta#, Gulf Coast Belles. PO Box 510045, Punta Gorda, FL 33951

Gender Society of the Palm Beaches c/o Compass, 1700 N Dixie Hwy, W Palm Beach, FL 33407. Phone: 561-833-3638 <RhondaWil@aol.com>.

Phi Epsilon Mu#, PO Box 3261, Winter Park, 32790-3261. Phone: 407-382-8389 <denisesfl@aol.com>.

Serenity, PO Box 307, Hollywood, 33022. Phone: (954) 436-9477.

Tau Lambda#, P O Box 3426, Tallahassee 32315-3426, <petrad@freenet.tl.fl.us>.

The Ladies Club of Florida (TLC), P.O. Box 372711 Satellite Beach, FL 32937 <HaleighTG@aol.com>

Georgia

AGE(!), PO Box 77562, Atlanta, 30357, Ph: 770-435-4203, <www.transgender.org/tg/age/index.html>

Sigma Epsilon#, PO Box 272, Roswell, 30077-0272, Ph: 770-552-4415.

Hawaii

Hawaii Transgender Outreach, PO Box 4530, Honolulu, 96812. Phone: (808) 923-4270 <tghawaii@poi.net>.

Idaho

Idaho Transgender Society, PO Box 7353, Boise, Idaho 83707-1353 Phone: 208-331-6669. <caufu@micron.net> or <alicialp@aol.com>.

Iowa

Iowa Artistry, PO Box 75, Cedar Rapids, 52406
River City Gender Alliance, RCGA, P O Box 680, Council Bluffs IA 51502. 402-398-1255.

Illinois

Central Illinois Gender Assoc., PO Box 126, Washington, 61517. Phone: (309) 444-9918.

Chi#, PO Box 40, Wood Dale, 60191-0040. Phone: 708-364-9514

Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, 60657, (708) 863-7714, <www.transgender.org/tg/cgs/cgsmain.html>

Outpost TransGender Group, 123 W Church Champaign, IL 61825. (217)-359-5113

Sunday Society, P O Box 478850, Chicago IL 60647. Phone: (312) 486-3125 or (312) 252-7024.

Transgender Significant Others, 123 West Church Street, Champaign IL 61825; 217-328-4469 <www.prairienet.org/~star/tgso.html> <straf@uiuc.edu>

Indiana

IXE, PO Box 20710, Indianapolis, 46220. (812) 876-5635 (Gloria), (812) 460-0694 (Gerri), Voice mail (317) 971-6976 <ixe@aol.com>.

T.O.N.I., Transgender Outreach of Northern Indiana, Ltd, PO Box 2372, Portage, IN 46368. 219-929-8533 <jenfermaes1@juno.com>.

Kansas

KC Crossdressers & Friends, PO Box 4092, Overland Park, 66204. Phone: (913) 791-3847

Wichita Transgender Alliance, POB 3002, Wichita KS 67201.(316) 688-0816. <Laylaj@AOL.com>.

Kentucky

Bluegrass Belles, PO Box 20173, Louisville, Ky 40250. <Dwils00@ukcc.uky.edu>.

Louisiana

Gulf Gender Alliance(!), P.O. Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187-1300. Phone: 504-523-4203 <CrysGGA@juno.com>

Maine

Maine Gender Resource & Support. c/o Jean Churchill, PO Box 1894, Bangor ME 04402-1894.
Transsupport, PO Box 17622, Portland, ME 04101.

Maryland

The Bridge Club, c/o Michelle Gerald, P O Box 11737, Baltimore MD 21206-0337.

Transgender Support Group of Baltimore, c/o Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Baltimore. 241 W. Chase St., Baltimore MD 21201. Phone: (+10) 837-5445, or switchboard 7-10pm (+10) 837-8888.

Tri-State Transgendered Club, c/o Diane Terrant, PO Box 3102, Deer Park MD 21550-1002. Phone: (301) 453-3538.

Maryland – cont'd.

Washington - Baltimore Alliance, PO Box 1994 Silver Spring Maryland, 20915.
<HGarfin725@aol.com>.

Massachusetts

Investments , (Cape Cod area), PO Box 2194, Orleans, 02653.

Reflections, PO Box 4002, East Dedham, 02026.

Sunshine Club,P.O. Box 564, Hadley, MA 01035-0564. 413-586-5004 <AE907@yfn.ysu.edu>.

Tiffany Club of New England, Inc., PO Box 2283, Woburn, 01888. (617) 891-9325 <www.tcne.org/>

Transgendered Alliance, (TGA), PO Box 38-1005, Cambridge, 02238.

Michigan

Crossroads, PO Box 1245, Royal Oak, 48068-1245. Phone: (313) 537-3267

IME of Western Michigan, PO Box 1153, Grand Rapids, 49501. <www.iserv.net/~ime>

Gender Explorers, c/o Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs, 3116 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1349

Minnesota

Beta Gamma#, PO Box 8591, Minneapolis, MN 55408. (612) 8708536, triesbg@tri-ess.com..

CLCC, PO Box 16265, Minneapolis, 55416. Phone: 612-933-5288

MFGE, PO Box 17945, St. Paul, 55117. Phone: (612) 220-9072 (voicemail).

New Men & Women of Minnesota, PO Box 6432, Minneapolis, 55406-0432. Phone: (612) 220-1920.

Mississippi

AURORA Transgender Support (Central Mississippi), PO Box 1306, Florence MS 39073. Phone: (601) 845-1328 or <KBrown3813@aol.com>.

Beta Chi#, PO Box 31253, Jackson, 39286-1253. Phone: (601) 982-7678 (24 hrs).

Missouri

St. Louis Gender Foundation, PO Box 9433, St. Louis, 63117,(314) 367-4128. <StLGf@aol.com>.

Nebraska

River City Gender Alliance, P. O. Box 3112, Omaha 68103. 402-398-1255, <sgibbons@synergy.net>.

Nevada

Equinox, 8175 S Virginia, Suite 850-256 Reno, NV 89511-8981 <carly4@x.netcom.com>.

Silver Rose Gender Association. Contact, Lynda Cheney, P.O. Box 1334 Carson City, NV, 89702

Theta Upsilon Gamma#, PO Box 91871, Henderson, 89009-1871. <sage@intermind.net>.

Transgender Support, Las Vegas, c/o Community Counseling Center, 1120 Almond Tree Lane (702) 392-2132, <lisatg696@aol.com>.

New Hampshire

GT North PO Box 421, Peterborough, NH 03458. Contact Pat Wells <gnorth@top.monad.net>

New Jersey

Chi Delta Mu#, PO Box 1, River Edge, 07661-0001. Phone: 800-484-7593 (code 4985), <cdm@carroll.com>.

MOTG(!), PO Box 2972, Princeton, NJ 08543-2972, Ph: 908-219-9094 <users.aol.com/vikkimmotg> <Vikkimmotg@aol.com>

NJ Support, (Washington Crossing) — contact Susan W. at PO Box 0034, Montville, NJ 07045. Phone: (973) 334-0416, <Susanw796@aol.com>.

Sigma Nu Rho#, 1092 St. Georges Ave., Suite 234, Rahway, NJ 07065. 800-480-3152, <tris@mcione.com>.

New Mexico

Phi (Fiesta)!, 8200 Montgomery NE, #241, Albuquerque, 87109. Phone: (505) 299-2533.

New York

Buffalo Belles#, NuPhiChi, PO Box 1701, Amherst, 14226. Phone: (716) 643-2626.

CD•Network, PO Box 92055, Rochester, 14692. Phone: (716) 251-2132.

EON Inc., PO Box 3586, Syracuse, NY 13220-3586. Phone: (315) 423-4099.

Gender Identity Project, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 West 13th Street, New York, 10011. Phone: (212) 620-7310.

Lambda Chi Lambda#, PO Box 1010, Cooperstown, 13326. (607) 547-4118, <StuComOne@aol.com>.

L.I.F.E.,Box 1311, Wayemill, NY 11976-1311. (516) 283-1333, <JoEd2Viola@aol.com>.

Metropolitan Gender Network(!), 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, 10014. Phone: (201) 794-1665 ext. 332, or (718) 461-9050.

TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, 12212-3604. Phone: (518) 436-4513.

Transgender Society of Northern New York, PO Box 413, Beaver Falls, NY 13305. Phone: 315-376-7662.

North Carolina

Kappa Beta#, PO Box 12101, Charlotte, 28220-2101. Phone: (704) 565-5034 <dajones@InfoAve.net>.

Phoenix Transgender Support, PO Box 18332, Asheville, 28814. Phone: (704) 259-9428.

Tau Gamma#, P.O.Box 25282, Raleigh, NC 27611

Ohio

Alpha Omega#, PO Box 2053, Sheffield Lake, 44054-0053. Phone: (216) 556-0067.

Cross-Port, PO Box 1692, Cincinnati OH 4520. (606) 581-3711. <WGBN68D@prodigy.com>.

Crystal Club, PO Box 287, Columbus, 43068. Phone: (614) 231-1368, <cc@stargate.com>

Paradise Club, PO Box 29564, Parma, 44129. <paradisedi@aol.com>.

Oklahoma

Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance, (COTA), PO Box 60354, Oklahoma City, 73146.

Oregon

Choices and Voices, 212 High St., Salem, Oregon 97303. (503) 373-4415 <pcb4reb@sprynet.com>.

Intermountain Transgender Outreach, 1524 Monroe Avenue, La Grande.541-963-7732, <keol@eosc.osshe.edu>.

Phoenix Rising Foundation, The Trans Group (for TS/TG/TV and questioning youth), 620 SW 5th Ave., Suite 710 , Portland, Oregon 97204. Phone: (503) 223-8299.

North West Gender Alliance, PO Box 4928, Portland, 97208.(503) 646-2802 <nwga@teleport.com>.

Trans-Port, PO Box 66913, Portland, 97290. Phone: (503) 774-8463.

Capital City Chapter, PO Box 3312, Salem, OR 97302 (please include an SSAE).

Pennsylvania

Erie Sisters, 1903 West 8th Street/Suite 261, Erie, PA 16505. <esc@conline.net>.

The Gender Group of Pittsburgh at the Persad Center, 5150 Penn Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15232. Contact Cheryl at 412-362-1638

Gender Transgressors, c/o Ben Singer, 1123 W. Orianna Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123. Phone: 215-922-5943 <bensing@eden.rutgers.edu>.

OASIS, PO Box 622, Meadville, PA 16335.

Phila. TS Support Group , PO Box 15839, Philadelphia PA 19103. Phone: (215) 567-7879.

Renaissance GPC, Greater Phila. Chapter, 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, 19087. Phone: (610) 975-9119, <angela@ren.org>.

Renaissance LSV, Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, 17105. Phone: (717) 780-1578. <lsv@ezonline.com>.

Renaissance LV, Lehigh Valley Chapter, PO Box 3624, Allentown, PA 18106. Call 610-821-2955

TransFamily, c/o Deni Scott, 962 Rockdale Road, Butler, PA 16001. Phone: 412-758-3578 (Janet) <dscott@pgh.net>.

TSG (Transsexual Support Group), 6020 Penn Circle South, Pittsburgh, 15206. Phone: (412) 661-7030, <tsg@usa.net>.

Transpitt, PO Box 3214, Pittsburgh, 15230. Phone: (412) 224-6015.

Tennessee

Alpha Pi Omega#, PO Box 784, Brentwood, 37204 Tennessee Vals, PO Box 92335, Nashville, 37209. Phone: 664-6883, <www.transgender.org/tg/tvals/index.html>

Memphis TransGender Alliance, P.O. Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-0052

Texas

Alpha Tau, (Austin), PO Box 2753, Cedar Park,78630-2753.(512) 331-5147. [9704]

Boulton & Park Society, PO Box 17, Bulverde, 78163. (830) 980-7788 <www.flash.net/~txp/>

Central Texas Transgender Society, 2900 W. Anderson Lane, Suite 127, Austin, Texas 78757 Phone: 512/451-7763 <Bobbi@ccsi.com>.

GCTC, PO Box 90335, Houston, 77090. Phone: (713) 780-GCTC, (713) 780-4282 voice.

HCDA (Helping CDs Anon.), 6804 E Hwy 6 S #334, 77083. <brenda@firstmethou.com>.

Metroplex CD Club/Delta Omega#, Bldg 106, Ste 144, 7120 Rufe Snow Dr, Wautauga, TX 76148-1862. (214) 264-7103, <domiss@flash.net>.

Nu Epsilon Tau#, PO Box 14096, Pantego, 76094. (214) 490-5738,

ReCast, PO Box 224001, Dallas, 75222-4001.

Texas Assoc. of Transsexuals (TATS), PO Box 142, Bellaire, 77401. Phone: (713) 827-5913 voice mail.

Tau Chi#, 8800 Bellaire B2, Ste. 104, Houston, TX 77036. <TrisInfo@aol.com>.

West Texas Gender Alliance c/o Tami Maloney, PO Box 6726, Abilene TX 79608.

Utah

Salt Lake Gender Consortium, PO Box 651073, Salt Lake City, 84165. [9707]

Reflection House, PO Box 628, Pleasant Grove, 84062. Phone/FAX: (801) 224-4737.

Virginia

Ladies First, 7138 Little River Turnpike, Ste. 1820, Annandale, VA 22003. Contact Laura Meeks at 540-720-7523 <Laurabci@aol.com>.

Metro Area Gender Alliance, MAGA, PO Box 16036, Arlington, 22215. Phone: (301) 949-3822.

Richmond Transformers - Transforming Female to Male - C/O Gray - Phone (804) 288-5502 [9709]

TransGender Education Association (TGEA), P.O. Box 16036, Arlington, Virginia 22215. Phone:(301) 949-3822 <TGEA@aol.com>.

Washington (state)

Bellingham Gender Group, 304 W. Champion, Bellingham, WA 98225. 1-360-416-1437.

Emerald City, PO Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103

Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison Suite 106, Seattle, WA 98122-2843

Wisconsin

Gemini Gender Group, P.O.Box 44211, Milwaukee, WI 53214

West Virginia

Trans-West Virginia, PO Box 2322, Huntington, WV 25724

continued next page

Canadian Support Groups

Alberta

Phi Sigma#, PO Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr SE, Calgary, T2J 7C9.

Illusions Club (peer support & info), PO Box 2000, Calgary, T2C 1B4. Phone: +1 (403) 236-7072.

Illusions Club II (peer support & info), Box 33002, Edmonton T5P 4V8

British Columbia

Dream Girls, P.O. Box 535, Kamloops, V2C 5L7.

Combury Society, PO Box 3745, Vancouver, V6B

3Z1, Phone: 604-415-2767.

Foundation for the Advancement of Trans-Gendered People's Society (FATE) 1-1727 William Street, Vancouver, V5L 2R5. Phone: +1 (604) 254-9591.

Zenith Foundation, 8415 Granville Street, PO Box 46, Vancouver, V6P 4Z9.

Manitoba

Prairie Rose Gender Club, PO Box 23 Gp 4 RR1, Dugald, R0E 0K0. Phone: +1 (204) 257-2759.

Ontario

Gender Metaphor, 829 Northwest Road, Suite 715,

Kingston, Ontario K7P-2N3. Contact by email only at this time genmet@adan.kingston.net.

Gender Mosaic, PO Box 7421, Ottawa, K1L 8E4. Phone: +1 (819) 770-1945 or email to: gender_mosaic@canadamail.com.

Transition Support, c/o The Church Street Community Centre, 519 Church Street, Toronto, M4Y 2C9.

Street Outreach Services, SOS, 622 Yonge St., 2nd Fl, Toronto, M4Y 1Z8. Phone: +1 (416) 926-0744 (24 hours).

Xpressions, P.O. Box 223, Station A, Toronto, M5W 1B2. Voice mail: +1 (416) 812-6879.

Quebec

Club MET, 4113 Dorion St., Montreal, H2K 3B8. Phone: +1 (514) 528-8874

FACT - Quebec, PO Box 293, 5858 Cote-de-Neiges Boulevard, Montreal, H3S 2S6.

TransPORRS (Post Op Recovery Residence), 475 Blvd Gouin Ouest, Montreal, H3L 1K4.

THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

October '98

3 - 1998 Delaware Pride Festival, g/l/b/t communities, Noon - 6:00 pm, Rodney Square, Wilmington, Delaware. voice:(302)328-1391, e-mail: PrideDel@aol.com.

10, Homecoming 1998: The Prom You Always Wanted. Sponsored by the Delaware Valley Legacy Fund at the Gershman Y, Broad and Pine Sts., Philadelphia. Doors open at 8 p.m.; with a 'Post-Prom Party' at Woody's after midnight. The highlight of the event will be the crowning of the Royal Court! Tickets are \$35 in Advance, \$45 at the Door. Credit Cards accepted. 1-800-494-TIXS, or for more info, 1-215-564-1124.

15-17, Lavender Law Conference, Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA. Email: LAVLAW98@aol.com..

18-25, Fantasia Fair, Provincetown, Mass. Contact Alison Laing, P.O. Box 473 Portsmouth, RI 02871-0473 401-624-4317.

24 - The Fourth Annual Transgender/Transsexual health Empowerment Conference, 9 AM to 7 PM, Audre Lorde Project Inc., 85 South Oxford Street, Brooklyn NY 11217. For more info or input, please contact: Rosalynne Blumenstein Director GIP, Phone: 212 620 7310. Or email to rblumenstein@gaycenter.org.

November '98

5 - 8, Paradise In The Poconos, fantasy getaway weekend. Contact CDS, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, call 610-640-9449 or email: poco@cdspub.com

5 - 8, Fall Harvest 1998, sponsored by City of Lakes Crossgendered Community in Minneapolis, Minn., at the Sheraton Metro Dome. For info contact, CLCC, PO Box 14844, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Call 612-229-3613, or email: CLCC@topcity.net

8-13, Dignity Cruise X and Holiday at Sea II. Miami to Key West and the Bahamas. Contact Cruises, Inc.: Barbara Arendt at 800-621-6699 or Mike Sinn at 800-818-7830.

11-15, Joint Meeting: The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality and Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Sex Therapists, Sexuality and the media: Hooray for Hollywood? Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Los Angeles, CA write Joint AASECT/SSSS Meeting, P.O. Box 240, Mount Vernon, IA 52314-0240. Phone: 319-895-6407, FAX: 319-895-6203.

13-15 Full Circle of Women, Center for Gender Sanity, PO Box 451427, Westchester, CA 90045. 310-670-2222. merkings@cris.com.

January '99

15 - 17, The 2nd Regional Organizing Conference devoted to the concerns of the Latino/a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community. Hostos Community College, New York City. For more information, call:

212 614-2949 or email us at: pafuerapal@aol.com.

March '99

3-16, Dignity Cruise XI. On the Marco Polo from Sidney, Australia to Cairns. Contact Cruises, Inc.: Barbara Arendt at 800-621-6699 or Mike Sinn at 800-818-7830.

5-7, Constructing Qmmunities. The 1999 Southeastern Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender College Conference at Duke University. Date: March 5-7, 1999. Site: Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Duke University.

April '99

8 - 10, Pride and Prejudice: The 5th Annual Symposium on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, The University of Rhode Island. Inquiries can be made by phone at (401) 874-2101 or by E-mail at silvadel@aol.com.

May '99

13 - 15, Trans-America Transgender Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina. Call 704-531-9988 for info or visit www.q-notes.com/transamerica.htm

June '99

2 - 6, 17th Annual Be-All, Radisson Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio. Any question E-mail Susie Davis or phone her at 330/923-3413.

August '99

17-22, Harry Benjamin Intl. Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc., London, England. Contact: Bean Robinson, 1300 South 2nd St., Ste. 180, Minneapolis, Mn 55454. Phone: 612-625-1500 (Receptionist), 612-624-8078 (Voice Mail), 612-626-8311 FAX, or email robin009@gold.tc.umn.edu.

May 2000

Fourth International Congress on Sex & Gender in Philadelphia, Pa., sponsored by the Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Inc. More details to come.

If you have information about an event that you'd like us to post here and online, please write to us at the CDS office or send email to us at: info@cdspub.com



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Workin' Cheap Time: an Interview with Minette

I met Minette, drag diva of a bygone era, in early June, 1998. I knew her autobiography, *Recollections of a Part-Time Lady*, a gem of gender history. With its color Xerox cover it looks more like a report than a book. In it are Minette's sweet rambling remembrances, 30 years of shows, sequins and sailors, from the 1940's to the 1970's. Minette performed in vaudeville at age 3, was almost expelled from grammar school for impersonating Mae West for the class, and was a professional drag artiste at 16. In her autobiography she says that drag "caused a regular separation among my friends, among my agents. See, I was working cheap-time because I was working (in) drag, and they could have gotten more money from me in other ways. But I felt so liberated, finally, working in drag. To be me, to be feminine. It felt gorgeous." The thought of meeting the dear petal had me all a-tizzy for a week before the interview.

Minette lives in faded elegance. Her Victorian flat is cluttered with genuine antiques suspended between restoration and decay. "I buy and sell antiques... I just got that mirror yesterday. Just that one thing and I went all over. Originally it wasn't a mirror. It was a picture frame from the 1850's or '60's. So that made it worth it."

When I spoke with her over the phone, she warned me that she hadn't been in drag for twenty years. That wasn't a problem, I assured her. Stories from the old shows would be fine. Minette's era was very different than ours. There was much more repression, secrecy, and the connection between drag and crime was much stronger. This was what I wanted to learn about.

The interview began with a reticence similar to that she expressed on the phone. She talked about the Harvey Milk documentary that had been on television the night before. I had brought some 20's sheet music, which she sight-read at the piano. With the Charleston still ringing in our ears she asked me where I was from. When I told her I was from Philadelphia the interview really began:

Minette: Oh, I was in Philadelphia. That cop, the one who was mayor, made it impossible to work.



Ms Bob: *Who, Frank Rizzo? (Frank Rizzo, Philadelphia's mayor during the Nixon era, was the Chief of Police before he was Mayor.)*

M: Yes! In 1955, I was living in Philly and trying to work. They wouldn't book you downtown. They booked me at a night club out on 63rd Street, between South and Market someplace. I sang. There were two other queens in the show, Leslie Marlowe and Jerri Paris. We were impersonators and got cut after only a split week, three nights. There were a couple of non-impersonators on the bill. One was Princess Fasia, who had been wed to the last king of Egypt, or so she claimed. She was a belly dancer and quite good, as I recall. The boss said, if we don't get rid of the queens, he's (Rizzo) going to close the whole show. So, then I went to work in a carnival in New Jersey. And that was so easy.

B: *What did you do in the carnival that was so easy?*

M: In the carnival, I performed out front (on the midway) with two baby boa constrictors. Inside I defied death in the electric chair. What made it easy was that the other acts didn't have much pizzazz, so,

Ms Bob
&
Carol Kleinmaier



that made me look good by comparison. I was living in drag and the customers thought I was real. I was just a pretty girl in the carnival as far as they knew.

B: How old were you then?

M: I'm 69 now, so I was about 26 or 27 then. Harvey Lee appeared

with us one Saturday. I don't know if you've ever heard of Harvey Lee? She was beautiful. She had a (Borzoi, a dog like a) Russian Wolfhound. She used to have a pair and she'd just walk out. She didn't have to do anything. She didn't really do anything very much anyway. (laughs)

Harvey was living in New York on the upper West Side. She performed in drag in the show, but didn't live in drag. The carnival was The Virginia Grater Carnival, a small time show. We were in a town closer to New York than Philadelphia when Harvey visited, a real tank town. But, we got to make a little money and get away from Rizzo. And as long as the carnival was close enough for someone to pick me up in an auto, I remained with the show. After awhile I said, "To hell with this." So I came to New York.

B: Did you perform in New York?

M: In those days you could work at the 181 Club or the Moroccan Village or the One Eleven. And you had to get your pay every night at the One-Eleven before they'd gamble it away. The 181 had a fabulous show. Kit Russell was at the 181 Club. She sort of ran it. It was located at 2nd Ave and 12th Street in the cellar. And the Johns were great, but the stars got the best Johns and there was a lot of dissension backstage. Some of the queens were on "bennies" or stronger things. The 181 was afraid of being raided and eventually they were.

When I was working at the 181 I was paying \$10.00 a month rent. I was at 9th Ave. and 43rd Street... The area was called Paddy's Market. They sold things on the street,

dented cans of this and that, a nickel each. And we worked until 4 in the morning. The town was really open all night then. The movies ran 24 hours a day on 42nd Street. And now, (said in horror) 10 o'clock (starts to cough) closing down. It's like some small town. People don't have the money. They all have to work to pay the rent. Sad.

And they (the club management) really had you under their thumb. I didn't want to do it. So I worked one door from Christopher Street on Bleecker as a "stitch bitch." I worked in a dress shop. I did the hems and the facing and waited on the customers when the boss was in the cellar.

B: Were you still living in drag?

M: No. Oh, that's too much work. I lived in drag in 1952 for a couple, maybe three months. I was living in Greenwich Village. It was strictly illegal to be in drag then on the streets. The reason I was living in drag was that I didn't have any boy's clothes with me and in drag I could turn tricks.

So, I don't know if you ever heard of Chris Scarlet? She was working in Chester, Pennsylvania and she told me about this job. So, I went to Chester. I was actually booked in Spring City, Pennsylvania. I'm sure you never heard of that. We were there for six months in a hotel, and across the river was a larger little town called Rollinsford on the Reading (Railroad) line. We put shows on in the dinning room. The people came from all over. We lived up stairs. Then we got booked in Norristown, and it was closer, so I could commute from Philadelphia on that little interurban (the Philadelphia & Western which still runs today —JAR). We were there for about a month. Then in the winter time the business finally died away.

B: Sounds like you were getting mainstream audiences.

M: Yes, we had gay people, but we had couples and everyone else. Rayleen, the head of the show, she put on these production numbers. They thought we were Broadway stars. The performers they had locally didn't do much.

You see, a lot of shows didn't say they were female impersonators. The 181 Club just said, "A show that is different." They didn't want to say female impersonators. They were afraid.

B: Afraid of being raided. Were you ever raided?

M: Well, there was a place called Ollie Knipples in Harrisburg. We were run out of there on Valentine's Day, '54. After the show they were having a big party and we get

continued on page 44

the phone call. When the cops came to the club, we went next door. They arrested Birdie La Page who was older. She had played Baltimore when they had so many drag clubs, right after booze came back in 1933. Anyway, I didn't even see the cops, thank goodness. I was out by sundown the next day to Philadelphia.

I was very lucky. I was working at a place called the C Note, which was outside of Providence, Rhode Island. I left there because I was offered a job working in Providence in this back room. It was really a side room off the big room. And I brought in Jerry Whiting, the piano player, and Bobby Hall, who worked in boy's clothes, and we put on a show. And we were open after hours.

The C Note was raided. They arrested Roxie King, Day Cherie, Chris Scarlet, Joie Tone, Kit Stevens, Robin Del Mar, and some other girls. And these poor queens, they kept moving them from one jail to another. But there was a law in Rhode Island that the state cops could not go into Providence. And that law saved me.

My boss, Rocco Martinelli, a rum-runner during Prohibition, was so good to me. He used to take me to breakfast in a fancy place. When they decided to close the club, he gave me \$100, which was a lot more money than it is today. And I got back to the College Inn. The College Inn was the fancy club in Boston. I worked there with Dixie Gordon. This was about 1951. Rocco used to come up from Providence with a big party about every two or three weeks. He was wonderful. So, since I came back to New York, I haven't been working very much. I mean you work a weekend and by the time the band knows your numbers, it's time to go. So it's very discouraging. And it's always out of town. So now it's different.

This was hardly the end of the interview. The stories went on, three times more than we needed. Plenty of material for future installments: the Crazy Horse, Pudgy Roberts, Miss Tish, Minette's book release party at the Ridiculous Theatre Company, Charles Ludlam, Ethyl Eichelberger, and, of course, Minette's starring roles in Avery Willard's classic 8 mm films, which ensure our "Part-Time" lady's place in underground film history.

This is a tremendous amount of activity considering police and politicians were clamping down on gender expression. In this era a man couldn't cross the street in a dress and even theatrical drag performances could be raided. Doesn't this, plus low wages, and banishment to the margins of society, seem a high price to pay for simply wanting to "feel gorgeous?" And if you're surprised by

Minette's passing references to bennies, rum-runners, tricks, or gambling, remember, when wearing a dress is a crime, crossdressers hang around with criminals.

We would like to thank Liz McGherity, Dan Nicoletta and Matt Wood for their cooperation in arranging this interview.

If there is any subject or person you'd be interested in seeing in "Flash Back," *Lady Like's* history column, please drop us a note and we will try to oblige.



Ms BOB is always interested in contacting other collectors of gender books, photos, magazines and ephemera to compare collections, trade, buy or sell. Several times a year she distributes a list of items she has available. Please, drop her a line if you'd like to receive this list. Ms. Bob can be reached care of LadyLike or at bdavis@sfsu.edu.

CAROL KLEINMAIER is a founding member of Transgendered Notion. For over a decade she has been an activist for both gender and AIDS issues.

If there is any subject or person you'd be interested having covered in Flash Back, please drop us a note and we will try to oblige.

Mirror Willot

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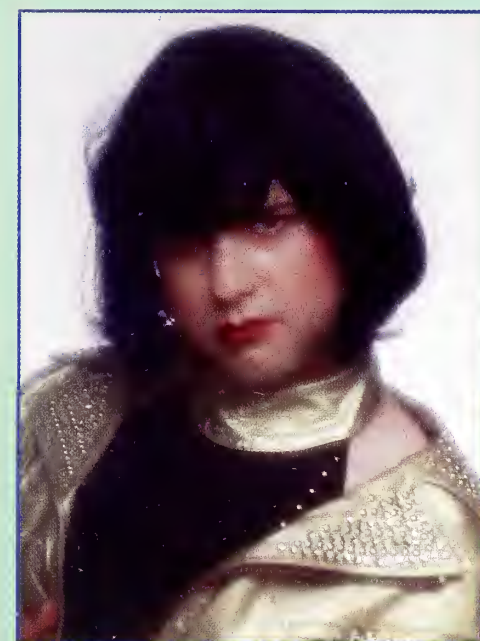


◀ JoAnn Roberts (r.) & Terry Murphy of Atlanta at Southern Comfort '97.



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Monica? Is that you? ▶
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◀ Felicia Renee Shaw

Delta Devroe ▼



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Ms. Barbara Satin ▼



◀ Stephanie Juliann, Conn.





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On My Mind...



Ch..Ch..Ch..Ch..Ch..Changes

There's been lots of changes going on in the community. Two major events have been cancelled for 1999. First, Linda and Cynthia Phillips announced the cancellation of the Texas "T" Party. This is a major blow to tg-party-goers. The "T" was one of the biggest and best events around (even if I don't agree with the Phillips politics). You

are hard pressed to find a nicer location than San Antonio in February. I remember coming home from my first "T" party (their second). We had lunch in the Mexican market with 70° weather and came home to 9° snow in Philadelphia.

The second cancellation is the 1999 International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) convention which had been planned for Orlando, Florida. Too bad! I was looking forward to doing Disney World in drag. But the cancellation is really a blessing in disguise. One thing IFGE has proven after 11 years is how to lose money on a convention—which is really quite odd when all the other events make money. Nevertheless, IFGE had no local host organization to call on in Orlando and the last time that happened in Atlanta, the convention cost IFGE an additional \$7000 in excess fees because they didn't meet their room quota. They didn't make it in Toronto this year either. Maybe people aren't as interested in IFGE's programs as they think we should be. Whatever. The IFGE convention attendance has been down and falling.

Other events like Southern Comfort and my Paradise In The Poconos are taking up some of the slack. I spoke with my good friend Terry Murphy recently. Terry is one of the Southern Comfort Conference board members. She told me the October '98 SoCom Conference has nearly 500 people registered for Saturday night's activities. That is not only a record for SCC but also for any community event. Likewise, at Paradise In The Poconos where we're used to hosting 75 to 80 people, we have 160 this year and only a month after SCC, too.

With the demise of the two major events mentioned above next year has a large "hole" in the events calendar. After First Event on Cape Cod, there is nothing until Cal Dreamin at the end of April, and Esprit in Washington state in May. That means someone has an opportunity to put on an event somewhere warm during February or March. I looked into hosting an event in Palm Springs several years ago but the winter is their season and we couldn't get any really good deals on hotels. Maybe Las Vegas is the place to go. Hopefully, someone will pick up the ball and plug that calendar hole.

But the demise of major events isn't the only big change going on in the community. Many organizations are experiencing a steady decline in membership. People aren't as dependent on support groups as they used to be. In one sense we've done our jobs too well. Our goal of making people feel better about their

transgendered nature has resulted in less people attending "support" group meetings and more people just going out, like to the Southern Comfort Conference, which is held in a public hotel. At Renaissance meetings we've noticed an interesting behavior. We usually adjourn to a local restaurant/bar after the meetings. Well, now more people show up at the restaurant than attend the meetings which tells me we're not fulfilling their needs at meetings. Our leadership has to work on making meetings more interesting so that people will *want* to attend.

On the other hand, members, and former members, of support groups shouldn't have such short-term memories. They should keep in mind that a group was there for them and without their financial support that group will *not* be there for future generations of transgendered people. Support groups are generally not self-sustaining. They need nurturing in the form of time, energy, and money. If you came out through a supportive group environment, then you should feel somewhat obligated to contribute time, or energy, or money, or all of the above.

The third area where we've seen significant changes is in politics. Our community is more politically active than ever before, yet it's not active enough. In general, I would say that most transgender activists identify as transgenderists or transsexuals. They have both the most to lose from discrimination and the most to gain from political activity. There are only a handful of transvestites/crossdressers involved in our political movement and that's a shame. By far, the TVs/CDs are in the majority in terms of simple numbers and they tend to have more disposable income. (You think it's cheap going to Southern Comfort or Paradise In The Poconos?) Yet most TVs/CDs don't see any reason to get active in tg-politics.

The transsexuals and transgenderists while a minority, have the motivation and the need to be politically active. If we could find a common ground to combine the three factions into a cohesive movement, I believe we could have greater numbers than the gay/lesbian community and subsequently greater impact on legislation.

Now, I hate to mention this but I think it is significant. The current crisis of confidence in the White House, and the president in particular, may have a direct impact on transgender politics in the next two years. If the Republicans/Religious Right are able to take over Congress in the next elections and eventually the White House, all minorities, anyone who is perceived as "different," and even, I believe, women, are in a lot of trouble. We may start to lose many of the hard-won liberties we now enjoy. We could see a return to pre-Stonewall prejudice.

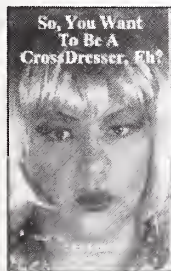
I don't want to sound alarmist, but neither do I wish to bury my head in the sand and think, "It can't happen here." So, I put my money and time and energy where my mouth is. I support my local organization and political transgender activism. What are you doing? If the answer is "nothing," shame on you! Get off your ass and do something useful, even if it's only writing a check.

JoAnn Roberts

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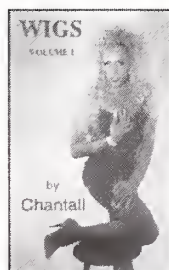
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